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# Therapeutic inhibition of keratinocyte TRPV3 sensory channel by local anesthetic dyclonine

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## Abstract

The multimodal sensory channel transient receptor potential vanilloid-3 (TRPV3) is expressed in epidermal keratinocytes and implicated in chronic pruritus, allergy, and inflammation-related skin disorders. Gain-of-function mutations of TRPV3 cause hair growth disorders in mice and Olmsted Syndrome in human. Nevertheless, whether and how TRPV3 could be therapeutically targeted remains to be elucidated. We here report that mouse and human TRPV3 channel is targeted by the clinical medication dyclonine that exerts a potent inhibitory effect. Accordingly, dyclonine rescued cell death caused by gain-of-function TRPV3 mutations and suppressed pruritus symptoms in vivo in mouse model. At the single-channel level, dyclonine inhibited TRPV3 open probability but not the unitary conductance. By molecular simulations and mutagenesis, we further uncovered key residues in TRPV3 pore region that could toggle the inhibitory efficiency of dyclonine. The functional and mechanistic insights obtained on dyclonine-TRPV3 interaction will help to conceive updated therapeutics for skin inflammation.



## 49 Introduction

50 Transient receptor potential (TRP) channels belong to a family of calcium-permeable  
51 and nonselective cation channels, essential for body sensory processing and local  
52 inflammatory development (Clapham, 2003). As a polymodal cellular sensor, TRPV3  
53 channel is abundantly expressed in skin keratinocytes (Chung, Lee, Mizuno, Suzuki,  
54 & Caterina, 2004c; Peier et al., 2002; Xu et al., 2002) and in cells surrounding the hair  
55 follicles (Cheng et al., 2010). TRPV3 integrates a wide spectrum of physical and  
56 chemical stimuli (Luo & Hu, 2014). TRPV3 is sensitive to innocuous temperatures  
57 above 30-33 °C and exhibits an increased response at noxious temperature (Chung,  
58 Guler, & Caterina, 2005; Xu et al., 2002). Natural plant products such as camphor  
59 (Moqrich et al., 2005), carvacrol, eugenol, thymol (Xu, Delling, Jun, & Clapham,  
60 2006), and the pharmacological compound 2-aminoethoxydiphenyl borate (2-APB)  
61 (Chung, Lee, Mizuno, Suzuki, & Caterina, 2004b; Colton & Zhu, 2007) also activate  
62 TRPV3. In addition, TRPV3 is directly activated by acidic pH from cytoplasmic side  
63 (Gao et al., 2016).

64 Mounting evidence implicates TRPV3 channel in cutaneous sensation including  
65 thermal sensation (Chung et al., 2004c), nociception (S. M. Huang et al., 2008), and  
66 itch (Yamamoto-Kasai et al., 2012). They also participate in the maintenance of skin  
67 barrier, hair growth (Cheng et al., 2010) and wound healing (Aijima et al., 2015;  
68 Yamada et al., 2010). Recently, the dysfunction of TRPV3 channels has come to the  
69 fore as a key regulator of physio- and pathological responses of skin (Ho & Lee,

2015). In rodents, the Gly573Ser substitution in TRPV3 renders the channel spontaneously active and caused a hairless phenotype in DS-Nh mice and WBN/Kob-Ht rats (Asakawa et al., 2006). DS-Nh mice also develop severe scratching behavior and pruritic dermatitis. TRPV3 dysfunction caused by genetic gain-of-function mutations or pharmaceutical activation has been linked to human skin diseases including genodermatosis known as Olmsted syndrome (Agarwala, George, Pramanik, & McGrath, 2016; Lin et al., 2012) and erythromelalgia (Duchatelet et al., 2014). Furthermore, TRPV3-deficient mice give rise to phenotypes of curly whiskers and wavy hair coat (Cheng et al., 2010). Conversely, hyperactive TRPV3 channels expressed in human outer root sheath keratinocytes inhibit hair growth (Borbiro et al., 2011). While being implicated in a variety of skin disorders, whether and how TRPV3 could be therapeutically targeted remains to be elucidated. It is thus desirable to identify and understand clinical medications that can potentially target TRPV3 channels.

As a clinical anesthetic, dyclonine is characterized by rapid onset of effect, lack of systemic toxicity, and a low index of sensitization (Florestano & Bahler, 1956). Its topical application (0.5% or 1% dyclonine hydrochloride contained in the topical solution, i.e., ~30.7 mM at a dose of 1%, according to the United States Pharmacopeia) rapidly relieves itching and pain in patients, by ameliorating inflamed, excoriated and broken lesions on mucous membranes and skin (Morginson et al., 1956). Accordingly, dyclonine is used to anesthetize mucous membranes prior to endoscopy (Formaker, Mott, & Frank, 1998). The clinical scenario targeted by dyclonine treatment echoes

the pathological aspects of TRPV3-related skin disorders, suggesting that the therapeutic effects of dyclonine might involve its interaction with TRPV3 sensory channel.

Here, using a multidisciplinary approach combining electrophysiology, genetic engineering and ultrafast local temperature control, we show that mouse and human TRPV3 channel was potently suppressed by dyclonine. It dose-dependently inhibited TRPV3 currents in a voltage-independent manner and rescued cell death caused by TRPV3 gain-of-function mutation. In *vivo*, dyclonine indeed suppressed the itching/scratching behaviors induced by TRPV3 channel agonist carvacrol as evidenced by the TRPV3 knock out (KO) mice. At single-channel level, dyclonine reduced TRPV3 channel open probability without altering the unitary conductance. We also identified molecular residues that were capable of either eliminating or enhancing the inhibitory effect of dyclonine. These data demonstrate the effective inhibition of TRPV3 channel by dyclonine, supplementing a molecular mechanism for its clinical effects and raising its potential to ameliorate TRPV3-associated disorders.

## Results

### Inhibition of TRPV3 currents by dyclonine

We first examined the effect of dyclonine on TRPV3 activity induced by the TRPV channel agonist 2-APB (100  $\mu$ M). Whole-cell currents were recorded at a holding potential of -60 mV in HEK 293T cells expressing mouse TRPV3. Because TRPV3 channels exhibit sensitizing properties upon repeated stimulation (Chung, Lee, Mizuno, Suzuki, & Caterina, 2004a), we examined the effect of dyclonine after the response had stabilized following repetitive application of 2-APB (Figure 1A). The presence of 5  $\mu$ M and 10  $\mu$ M dyclonine significantly inhibited TRPV3 currents response to  $30 \pm 2\%$  and  $15 \pm 3\%$  of control level, respectively. After washing out of dyclonine, 2-APB evoked a similar response to the control level, indicating the blocking effect of dyclonine is reversible (Figure 1A-B). We repeated the experiments with different doses of dyclonine. The dose-response curve indicates that dyclonine inhibited TRPV3 currents in a concentration-dependent manner with an  $IC_{50}$  of  $3.2 \pm 0.24 \mu$ M ( $n = 6$ , Figure 1C). We further examined the inhibitory effect of dyclonine on TRPV3 activated by varying concentrations of 2-APB (Figure 1D). The dose-response curves to 2-APB were fitted with a Hill equation. The inhibitory effect of dyclonine on TRPV3 activation was consistently observed under all tested 2-APB concentrations (Figure 1E). The corresponding  $EC_{50}$  values and Hill coefficients were not changed by the presence of dyclonine (Figure 1E,  $EC_{50} = 22.93 \pm 0.02 \mu$ M,  $n_H = 1.6 \pm 0.1$  without dyclonine vs.  $EC_{50} = 22.03 \pm 0.86 \mu$ M,  $n_H = 1.7 \pm 0.1$  with 3  $\mu$ M dyclonine), as confirmed by the normalized dose-response curves (Figure 1F).

Therefore, dyclonine dose-dependently inhibits the response amplitudes of TRPV3 channel.

TRPV3 channel in physiological conditions has a low level of response to external stimuli, which is augmented during the sensitization process (i.e., repetitive stimulations, Figure 1A). In contrast, excessive up-regulation of TRPV3 activity impairs hair growth and increases the incidence of dermatitis and pruritus in both humans and rodents. To determine whether dyclonine affects the process of TRPV3 sensitization, TRPV3-expressing cells were repeatedly exposed to 100  $\mu$ M 2-APB without or with 5  $\mu$ M dyclonine (Figure 1G-H). TRPV3 currents evoked by 2-APB alone took ~8 repetitions to reach full sensitization level (Figure 1I). The presence of dyclonine significantly slowed down this process, requiring ~16 repetitions to reach the current level of full sensitization (Figure 1H-I). As expected, dyclonine also reduced the initial TRPV3 current ( $31.12 \pm 2.86$  pA/pF, v.s.  $86.43 \pm 5.9$  pA/pF without dyclonine;  $p < 0.001$ ;  $n = 9$  per condition).

As TRPV3 is highly expressed in keratinocytes, we further determined the inhibitory effect of dyclonine in primary mouse epidermal keratinocytes. After stabilizing the channel current by repeated application of 2-APB, we tested the inhibitory effect of 5  $\mu$ M and 30  $\mu$ M dyclonine (Figure 1J). On average, TRPV3 currents were reduced to  $52 \pm 7\%$  and  $13 \pm 0.01\%$  of control level by 5  $\mu$ M and 30  $\mu$ M dyclonine, respectively (Fig. 1K), reaching the similar level of inhibition by the wide-spectrum TRP channel blocker ruthenium red (RR, Figure 1J). From the dose-response curve (Figure 1L), the  $IC_{50}$  of dyclonine was assessed to be  $5.2 \pm 0.71$

μM, with a Hill coefficient of  $n_H = 2.4 \pm 0.75$  ( $n = 7$ ). Thus, dyclonine effectively suppresses the activity of endogenous TRPV3 channels in mouse keratinocytes.

### **Dyclonine is a potent inhibitor of TRPV3 channel**

Next, we compared the inhibitory effect on TRPV3 of dyclonine to its impact on other TRP channels. TRPV1, TRPV2, TRPM8 and TRPA1 channels were expressed in HEK 293T cells and respectively activated by capsaicin, 2-APB, menthol and Allyl Isothiocyanate (AITC). We observed that 10 μM dyclonine exhibited little inhibition on TRPV1, TRPV2, TRPM8 and TRPA1, but potently inhibited TRPV3 channel (Figure 2A). The corresponding reduction in current amplitude was  $2 \pm 1\%$  for TRPV1,  $6 \pm 1\%$  for TRPV2,  $9 \pm 2\%$  for TRPM8,  $5 \pm 1\%$  for TRPA1, compared with  $87 \pm 1\%$  inhibition of TRPV3 current (Figure 2B). By applying a series of dyclonine concentrations, we derived dose-response curves (Figure 2C). The corresponding  $IC_{50}$  values of dyclonine for inhibiting TRPV1, TRPV2 TRPM8 and TRPA1 channels ( $336.3 \pm 12.0$  μM,  $36.5 \pm 3.7$  μM,  $72.4 \pm 10.9$  μM and  $152.35 \pm 16.3$  μM, respectively) were one or two orders of magnitude higher than that for TRPV3 inhibition ( $3.2 \pm 0.24$  μM), indicating that dyclonine represents an effective inhibitor of TRPV3 channel.

Above results were obtained for mouse TRPV3. We further asked whether the inhibitory effect of dyclonine on TRPV3 is consistent across different species. Similarly, we performed whole-cell recordings in HEK 293T cells expressing human TRPV3 and frog TRPV3, respectively. They were activated to a stable level by

repetitive 2-APB stimulation. Addition of dyclonine, indeed, efficiently suppressed the activation of both types of TRPV3 channel (Figure 2D-I). Dose-response curves for dyclonine inhibition yielded an  $IC_{50}$  value of  $16.2 \pm 0.72 \mu M$  for hTRPV3 and  $12.3 \pm 1.6 \mu M$  for fTRPV3, respectively. Therefore, the inhibition of TRPV3 by dyclonine is conserved across species.

### **Inhibition of TRPV3 by dyclonine is voltage-independent**

To obtain a complete description of the inhibitory effect of dyclonine, we next investigated its voltage dependence using a stepwise protocol (Figure 3A). We measured membrane currents in TRPV3-expressing HEK 293T cells using a  $Cs^+$ -based pipette solution that blocks most outward  $K^+$  channel current but permits measurement of outward conductance mediated by the nonselective TRPV3 channel. A low-concentration 2-APB ( $40 \mu M$ ) activated small voltage-dependent currents with steady-state outward rectification, characteristic of TRPV3 currents in heterologous expression systems (Figure 3A). Addition of dyclonine in the extracellular solution significantly diminished TRPV3-mediated outward and inward currents (Figure 3A). By contrast,  $10 \mu M$  ruthenium red, a broad TRP channel blocker, only inhibited TRPV3-mediated inward currents but enhanced outward currents (Figure 3A), which is consistent with early report (Cheng et al., 2010). Dyclonine inhibition of both inward and outward currents was further confirmed by the I-V curves derived from pooled data (Figure 3B). We found no significant difference inhibition at hyperpolarized voltages versus depolarized voltages, showing the inhibition occurred

independently of the membrane potential (Figure 3C). Together, relative to the wide-spectrum blocker ruthenium red, dyclonine more effectively inhibits TRPV3 channel in a voltage-independent manner.

### **Inhibition of heat-activated TRPV3 currents by dyclonine**

TRPV3 is a thermal sensitive ion channel and has an activation threshold around 30 to 33 °C (Xu et al., 2002). We therefore explored whether the heat-evoked TRPV3 currents can be also inhibited by dyclonine. We employed an ultrafast infrared laser system to control the local temperature near single cells; each temperature jump had a rise time of 1.5 ms and lasted for 100 ms. TRPV3 sensitization of the channel was induced by repeating a same temperature jump from room temperature to ~51 °C (Figure 4A). TRPV3, expressed in HEK 293T cells, steadily responded to temperature jumps ranging from 30 to 51 °C (Figure 4B). After pre-sensitization by repeated temperature jumps from room temperature to 52 °C, application of dyclonine appreciably inhibited TRPV3 thermal currents (Figure 4B-C). The inhibitory effect of dyclonine was fully reversible, as after its washing out the TRPV3 response recovered to the same level as control condition (Figure 4C). To determine the concentration dependence of dyclonine inhibition, TRPV3 currents were evoked by a same temperature jump from room temperature to ~52 °C in the presence of 1, 3, 5, 10, 30, and 50 µM dyclonine (Figure 4D). The  $IC_{50}$  of dyclonine on TRPV3 inhibition was assessed to be  $14.02 \pm 2.5$  µM with a Hill coefficient of  $n_H = 1.9 \pm 0.54$ , according to



the dose-response curve fitting (Figure 4E). These results thus indicate that dyclonine dose-dependently suppresses heat-evoked TRPV3 currents.

### **Dyclonine inhibited hyperactive TRPV3 mutants and rescued cell death**

It has previously been reported that gain-of-function mutations, G573S and G573C, of TRPV3 are constitutively active and their expression causes cell death (Xiao, Tian, Tang, & Zhu, 2008). We firstly examined the effect of dyclonine on the electrophysiological activity of mutants. We transfected the inducible cDNA constructs encoding respectively the GFP-tagged wild-type TRPV3, G573S, or G573 mutant into T-Rex 293 cells and then applied 20 ng/ml doxycycline to induce the gene expression. As illustrated in Figure 5A and B, whole-cell recordings from G573S or G573C expressed in T-Rex 293 cells show that spontaneous currents noticeably appeared when changing the holding potential from 0 mV to -60 mV, and application of 2-APB further increased the channel currents. In each patch, 20  $\mu$ M RR was applied extracellularly to obtain remaining leak currents. By subtracting leak currents, we found that spontaneous activities from G573S and G573C were reduced by  $74 \pm 3\%$  ( $n = 6$ ) and  $71 \pm 2\%$  ( $n = 6$ ) by 10  $\mu$ M dyclonine, respectively (Figure 5C). Also, the presence of dyclonine significantly inhibited 300  $\mu$ M 2-APB-evoked responses to  $10 \pm 2\%$  (G573S,  $n = 6$ ) and  $11 \pm 1\%$  (G573C,  $n = 6$ ) of control level (Figure 5D), respectively. As both mutant TRPV3 channels are effectively inhibited by dyclonine, we next explored whether it can rescue the cell death caused by these gain-of-function mutants. Cells expressing G573S or G573C were exposed to different

pharmacological drugs (dyclonine, 2-APB, 2-APB and dyclonine, or ruthenium red). Cell death was recognized by the narrow and contracted footprints in bright-field images, and the protein expression meanwhile monitored by GFP fluorescence. As shown in Figure 5E, massive cell death was seen in cells that expressed G573C and G573S TRPV3 mutants but not those expressing the wild type TRPV3. Addition of dyclonine largely prevented the cell death while not causing change in the expression of TRPV3 channels (Figure 5E), indicating that dyclonine decreased the cytotoxicity caused by the gain-of-function mutants. We further performed flow cytometry analysis and observed that the cell death ratio was maintained at low level ( $4.96 \pm 0.87\%$ ,  $n = 7$ ) in cells expressing wild-type TRPV3 (Figure 5F). By contrast, the expression of G573S or G573C mutant significantly increased the cell death ratio to  $45.36 \pm 5.79\%$  ( $n = 7$ ) and  $52.74 \pm 4.94\%$  ( $n = 7$ ), that were effectively reduced by dyclonine ( $50 \mu\text{M}$ ) to  $12.45 \pm 2.54\%$  ( $n = 7$ ) and  $14.98 \pm 4.40\%$  ( $n = 7$ ), respectively. The cell-protective effect of dyclonine was mirrored by the general TRP channel blocker ruthenium red (Figure 5E-G). As expected, activation of TRPV3 channels with the agonist 2-APB caused significant cell death even in cells expressing wild-type channel and exacerbated the cell death in those expressing the mutant channel G573S or G573C (Figure 5G). Application of dyclonine also reversed the cell death caused by 2-APB activation ( $9.12 \pm 1.42\%$  vs.  $43.73 \pm 3.46\%$  for wild-type condition,  $17.68\% \pm 5.66\%$  vs.  $53.60 \pm 5.88\%$  for G573S, and  $13.85\% \pm 2.49\%$  vs.  $47.91 \pm 5.54\%$  for G573C after and before addition of dyclonine). Collectively, these results indicate that dyclonine rescues cell death by inhibiting the excessive activity of

TRPV3 channel.

### **Dyclonine targets TRPV3 in vivo and ameliorates scratching behavior**

TRPV3 is highly expressed in skin keratinocytes, whose hyperactivity causes pruritic dermatitis and scratching behavior. We next examined in vivo the therapeutic effect of dyclonine on TRPV3 hyperactivity-caused scratching behavior in mouse model. Itching-scratching behavior was induced by pharmacological activation of TRPV3 channel by a natural compound carvacrol derived from oregano (Cui, Wang, Wei, & Wang, 2018). The number of scratching bouts was quantified every 5 min (Figure 6A), and also summed over a 30-minute observation period (Figure 6B). Intradermal injection of carvacrol (0.1%, 50  $\mu$ l) in wild-type TRPV3 mice caused significant increases in the accumulated scratching bouts ( $137.2 \pm 33.9$ ) as compared to the control group receiving normal saline (0.9% NaCl,  $3.8 \pm 1$ ,  $n = 6$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; Figure 6B). By contrast, intradermal injection of carvacrol (0.1%, 50  $\mu$ l) did not elicit a remarkable change in the number of scratching bouts in TRPV3<sup>-/-</sup> mice (Figure 6A-B), supporting that carvacrol caused itching-scratching behavior via TRPV3 activation (Cui et al., 2018). To investigate whether dyclonine could alleviate carvacrol-evoked acute itch, we made an intradermal injection of dyclonine into the mouse neck 30 minutes before the injection of carvacrol into the same site. As illustrated in Figure 6C-D, administration of 50  $\mu$ l dyclonine at 1, 10 and 50  $\mu$ M concentrations appreciably reduced the scratching bouts to  $130.0 \pm 20.3$ ,  $82.0 \pm 15.0$ , and  $18.0 \pm 8.0$  from  $137.8 \pm 18.3$  ( $n = 6$ ), respectively. We also carried out whole-cell recordings in

TRPV3-expressing HEK 293T cells to further confirm the inhibitory effect of dyclonine on TRPV3 currents activated by carvacrol. Similar to that observed with the inhibition of 2-APB-evoked TRPV3 currents (Figure 1A-C), dyclonine also inhibited carvacrol-activated TRPV3 currents in a concentration-dependent manner with  $IC_{50} = 3.5 \pm 0.34 \mu M$  following sensitization by repeated application of 300  $\mu M$  2-APB ( $n = 8$ , Figure 6E-F), implying that the itching caused by carvacrol is mainly due to the activation of TRPV3. Hence, dyclonine ameliorates TRPV3 hyperactivity-caused scratching in a concentration-dependent manner. In contrast, dyclonine (10  $\mu M$ ) showed little effect on electrophysiological responses in mouse dorsal root ganglia (DRG) and trigeminal ganglia (TG) neurons (Figure 6—figure supplement 1). This observation is in line with the absence of TRPV3 in mouse DRGs (Peier et al., 2002), and suggest that the in vivo effect of dyclonine arises from the targeting of keratinocyte TRPV3 channels.

We also used wild-type and TRPV3 KO mice to examine the effect of dyclonine on thermal nociceptive responses to the noxious temperature 55 °C. In wild-type mice, dyclonine exhibited a tendency to reduce the nociceptive response (Figure 6—figure supplement 1). TRPV3 KO reduced mice nociceptive response to heating as compared to wild-type mice (55 °C; comparison between gray bars in Figure 6—figure supplement 1E). However, in TRPV3 KO mice, dyclonine showed no further effect, showing that dyclonine mainly targets TRPV3 in vivo. These observations also suggest that TRPV3 partially contributes to pain sensation in

thermal nociception, in consistency with the temperature-dependent responses of TRPV3 channel (Figure 4).

### **Effects of dyclonine on single TRPV3 channel activity**

We then examined the functional and molecular mechanisms underlying the inhibition of TRPV3 by dyclonine. To distinguish whether such inhibition arises from the changes in channel gating or conductance, we measured single-channel activity. Single-channel recordings were performed in an inside-out patch that was derived from HEK 293T cells expressing the mouse TRPV3 (Figure 7). Currents were evoked by 10  $\mu$ M 2-APB in the absence and presence of dyclonine (30  $\mu$ M) after sensitization induced by 300  $\mu$ M 2-APB at a holding potential of either +60 mV or -60 mV (Figure 7A). To quantify the changes, we constructed all-point histograms and measured the open probabilities and the unitary current amplitudes by Gaussian fitting. We observed that the single-channel open probability was largely decreased by dyclonine from  $0.8 \pm 0.02$  to  $0.08 \pm 0.01$  at -60 mV and from  $0.82 \pm 0.02$  to  $0.12 \pm 0.01$  at +60 mV ( $n = 6$ ), respectively (Figure 7B). Statistical analysis, however, revealed that dyclonine had no effect on single TRPV3 channel conductance ( $163.6 \pm 6.4$  pS v.s.  $179.2 \pm 5.5$  pS for before and after dyclonine treatment; Figure 7C).

### **The mechanism underlying the inhibition of TRPV3 by dyclonine**

326 In order to understand the molecular mechanism underlying the blockade of TRPV3  
327 by dyclonine, we utilized *in silico* docking to predict their interactions. The inhibitory  
328 effect of drugs on ion channels is usually achieved in three ways, competitively  
329 binding with agonists, negative allosteric regulation or directly blocking the channel  
330 pore. Dyclonine inhibited TRPV3 currents evoked by both 2-APB (Figure 1) and heat  
331 (Figure 4), implying that dyclonine is not a competitive antagonist. In addition, the  
332 voltage independence of dyclonine inhibition and the fact that dyclonine is a positive  
333 charged alkaloid suggests that dyclonine is not simply an open channel blocker.  
334 Previous studies have demonstrated that local anesthetics inhibit voltage-gated  
335 sodium channels through a common drug-binding region within the channel pore  
336 (Tikhonov & Zhorov, 2017). We therefore suspected that the inhibition effect of  
337 dyclonine is also due to its allosteric interaction with specific residues within the  
338 aqueous pore of TRPV3. The grid file of *in silico* docking was then constructed to  
339 examine residues in the upper pore region and the central cavity of TRPV3 (Figure  
340 8—figure supplement 1A); the best receptor–ligand complex was evaluated using the  
341 extra precision (XP) scoring. Ligand clusters derived from XP docking suggested  
342 three potential TRPV3/dyclonine binding modes (BMs): BM<sub>A</sub>, BM<sub>B</sub> and BM<sub>C</sub> (Figure  
343 8A-B). Moreover, residues within 10 Å of dyclonine poses were extensively refined  
344 using Induce-Fit-Docking (IFD) based on mTRPV3 cryo-EM structure (Singh,  
345 McGoldrick, & Sobolevsky, 2018) (Figure 8A - Figure 8—figure supplement 1B).  
346 BM<sub>B</sub> and BM<sub>C</sub> modes predicted that dyclonine occupies the ion permeation pathway  
347 behaving as an open channel blocker. This, however, contradicts with the fact that

dyclonine is a positive charged alkaloid (Figure 8B) and its inhibition effect is voltage-independent (Figure 3). Hence, BM<sub>B</sub> and BM<sub>C</sub> binding modes appear unlikely. Nevertheless, mutants in key residues in these two binding sites diversely affected the inhibition of dyclonine (I637A, IC<sub>50</sub> = 6.1 ± 0.43 μM; F666A, IC<sub>50</sub> = 414.5 ± 15.7 μM; I674A, IC<sub>50</sub> = 15.1 ± 2.1 μM, Figure 8—figure supplement 1E-H), suggesting the pore region is crucial for dyclonine inhibition.

BM<sub>A</sub> mode shows that dyclonine makes contacts with the cavity formed by the pore loop and S6-helix of TRPV3 (Figure 8A-B). Structures assigned to *apo* and open states revealed remarkable allosteric changes and cavity size reduction in these regions (Figure 8—figure supplement 1G-H), supporting the rationality of the BM<sub>A</sub> mode.

To further delineate dyclonine-interacting residues, we systematically mutated the residues in the cavity of TRPV3 channel predicted by BM<sub>A</sub> binding mode. Among the mutants, mutations L630W, N643A, I644W and L655A greatly reduced the inhibitory effect of dyclonine, whereas the mutants L642A and I659A showed higher sensitivity to dyclonine than wild-type channel (Figure 8C-D). The dose-response curves were fitted with a Hill equation, and the corresponding IC<sub>50</sub> values for each TRPV3 mutant were as follows: IC<sub>50</sub> = 286.7 ± 10.4 μM for L655A; IC<sub>50</sub> = 30.8 ± 2.2 μM for L630W; IC<sub>50</sub> = 37.7 ± 5.1 μM for N643A; IC<sub>50</sub> = 26.1 ± 2.8 μM for I644W; IC<sub>50</sub> = 0.25 ± 0.02 μM for L642A and IC<sub>50</sub> = 0.56 ± 0.06 μM for I659A, compared to IC<sub>50</sub> = 3.2 ± 0.24 μM for WT TRPV3 (Figure 8D-E). Notably, all mutant channels except L639A were functional and produced robust responses to 2-APB (Figure 8F). Covalent

modification of L630C, F633C and L642C, with side chains toward the proposed binding site, using MTSET (2-(trimethylammonium) ethyl methanethiosulfonate, bromide), an MTS reagent with bulk positive side chain, significantly decreased 2-APB-induced current in the mutated mTRPV3 channels (Figure 8G-H). The reduction reagent dithiothreitol (DTT) rescued this inhibitory effect, indicating that the interruption of the allostery of the pore cavity has impaired the channel activation of mTRPV3 (Figure 8G-H). In contrast, MTSET treatment had no effect on the activation of wild-type TRPV3 (Figure 8H). Along the same line, MTSET modification caused reduced dyclonine blockade in L630C, F633C and L642C but not wild-type TRPV3, and DTT restored the blockage of dyclonine in these mutants (Figure 8I), implying dyclonine-mediated inhibition is mediated by the region predicted by BM<sub>A</sub> binding mode. Together, our results suggest that dyclonine interacts with the pore cavity of TRPV3 to prevent, likely behaving as a negative allosteric modulator.



## Discussion

As a multimodal sensory channel, TRPV3 is abundantly expressed in keratinocytes and implicated in inflammatory skin disorders, itch, hair morphogenesis, and pain sensation (Broad et al., 2016). Human Olmsted syndrome has been linked to the gain-of-function mutations of TRPV3 (Agarwala et al., 2016; Lai-Cheong et al., 2012; Lin et al., 2012). Synthetic and natural compounds, like isopentenyl pyrophosphate (Bang, Yoo, Yang, Cho, & Hwang, 2011), 17(R)-resolvin D1 (Bang, Yoo, Yang, Cho, & Hwang, 2012), forsythoside B (Zhang et al., 2019), diphenyltetrahydrofuran osthole (Higashikawa et al., 2015) and ruthenium red (Xu et al., 2002) have been proposed to inhibit TRPV3 channels. Due to either or both the lack of targeting specificity and the clinical application, their remedial potential remains to be determined. Hence, identifying and understanding clinical pharmaceuticals that target TRPV3 channels will help to conceive therapeutic interventions.

Dyclonine is a topical antipruritic agent and has been used for clinical treatment of itching and pain for decades (Gargiulo, Burns, & Huck, 1992; Greifenstein, Harris, & Parry, 1956). While the therapeutic effect of dyclonine has been attributed to the inhibition of cell depolarization, the underlying mechanisms have not been fully understood. In the present study, we provide several tiers of evidence that dyclonine potently inhibits TRPV3 channel. Such inhibition was observed for TRPV3 responses to both chemical and thermal activation, suggesting dyclonine is a condition-across inhibitor. Accordingly, dyclonine efficiently blocked the excessive activation of TRPV3 mutants and prevented cell death. Single-channel recordings revealed that

dyclonine effectively suppresses the channel open probability without changing single-channel conductance. These data not only supplement a molecular mechanism for the therapeutic effect of dyclonine, but also suggest its application to curb TRPV3-related disorders. Using mouse model, we indeed observed that dyclonin ameliorates the TRPV3 hyperactivity-caused itch/scratching behaviors, indicating its therapeutic inhibition effect being maintained *in vivo*. As TRPV3 responds to moderate temperatures (30 - 40 °C), dyclonine may thus be used to alleviate skin inflammations persisted in physiological temperatures. Also, as a clinical drug dyclonine has been widely used and thus has shown its safety to human body (Gargiulo et al., 1992; Sahdeo et al., 2014). In addition, as a potent inhibitor, dyclonine can also be a research tool to dissect the physio- and pathological characteristics of TRPV3 channel. While dyclonine effectively inhibits TRPV3 channels, our current results do not exclude its targeting of other molecular pathways. For instance, voltage-gated sodium channels have been shown to be inhibited by local anesthetics including dyclonine (Sahdeo et al., 2014; Tikhonov & Zhorov, 2017).

The current data also provide clues on the molecular mechanism underlying the inhibition of TRPV3 by dyclonine. The residues within the pore loop and S6-helix of TRPV3, as suggested by BM<sub>A</sub> binding mode, create a functional ‘hotspot’ contributing to the inhibition of dyclonine. Chemical modification experiment further confirmed the importance of this ‘hotspot’ to channel gating and dyclonine inhibition. Interestingly, the size of pocket BM<sub>A</sub> is distinct in the apo/resting and open states. Likely, binding of dyclonine into this pocket could prevent the structural

429 rearrangements of pore loop during TRPV3 gating, implying that dyclonine behaves  
430 as a negative allosteric modulator. Although similar pockets can also be observed on  
431 other TRP channels, the amino acids that make up the pocket and the precise shape of  
432 the pocket are diverse (Figure 8—figure supplement 2). This may be the reason why  
433 TRPV3 is targeted by dyclonine (Liao, Cao, Julius, & Cheng, 2013; Shimada et al.,  
434 2020; Singh et al., 2018). F666 is located below the upper filter and behaves with a  
435 bulky hydrophobic side chain, which may play a role in maintaining the shape of  
436 BM<sub>A</sub> at the open state. This may be the reason why F666A is capable of decreasing  
437 the inhibition of dyclonine. Our current study revealed critical residues located within  
438 the pore cavity of TRPV3 that regulate dyclonine inhibition, yet the possibility exists  
439 that dyclonine inhibition is mediated by indirect mechanisms involving interactions  
440 with other residues. Nevertheless, the molecular sites uncovered by the present study  
441 would be instrumental for pinpointing the dyclonine-TRPV3 interaction at the  
442 molecular level, thereby developing specific therapeutics for chronic pruritus,  
443 dermatitis and skin inflammations.

## Material and Methods

**Key resources table**

Reagent type (species) or resource	Designation	Source or reference	Identifiers	Additional information
Species ( <i>Mus musculus</i> )	<i>Trpv3</i> <sup>-/-</sup> mice	(Wang et al., 2020)	PMID: 32535744	C57BL/6J background
Cell line ( <i>Homo sapiens</i> )	HEK 293T	ATCC	Cat.#:CRL-32 16	
Cell line ( <i>Homo sapiens</i> )	T-Rex 293	Thermo Fisher	Cat.#:R71007	
Chemical compound	2-APB	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat.#:D9754	TRPV1-3 agonist
Chemical compound	Carvacrol	MedChemExpress	Cat.#:499752	TRPV3 agonist
Chemical compound	Menthol	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat.#:M278	TRPM8 agonist
Chemical compound	Capsaicin	MedChemExpress	Cat.#: HY10448	TRPV1 agonist
Chemical compound	AITC	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat.#:377430	TRPA1 agonist
Chemical compound	Ruthenium Red	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat.#:R2751	TRP channels inhibitor
Chemical compound	Poly-L-lysi ne hydrochlori de	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat.#:2658	

Chemical compound	MTEST	MedChemExpress	Cat.#: 690632554
Chemical compound	DTT	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat.#: 3483123
Chemical compound	Dyclonine	MedChemExpress	Cat.#: 536436
Software, algorithm	Patchmaster	HEKA Electronics	
Software, algorithm	OriginPro	Originlab.com	
Software, algorithm	Clampfit 10	Molecular Devices	
Software, algorithm	SigmaPlot 10	SPSS Science	

#### 445 **cDNA constructs and transfection in HEK 293T cells**

446 The wild-type mouse TRPV3 (mTRPV3), human TRPV3 (hTRPV3), rat TRPV1, rat  
447 TRPV2, rat TRPM8 and mouse TRPA1 cDNAs were generously provided by Dr.  
448 Feng Qin (State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, USA). The  
449 GFP-mTRPV3 wild-type and the mutants (mTRPV3-G573S and mTRPV3-G573C) in  
450 pcDNA4/TO vector were gifts from Dr. Michael X. Zhu (The University of Texas  
451 Health Science Center at Houston, Houston, USA). The wild-type frog TRPV3  
452 (fTRPV3) was kindly provided by Dr. Makoto Tominaga (Department of  
453 Physiological Sciences, SOKENDAI, Okazaki, Japan). All mutations were made  
454 using the overlap-extension polymerase chain reaction (PCR) method as previously

described (Tian et al., 2019). The resulting mutations were then verified by DNA sequencing. HEK 293T and T-Rex 293 cells were grown in Dulbecco's modified Eagles medium (DMEM, Thermo Fisher scientific, MA, USA) containing 4.5 mg/ml glucose, 10% heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS), 50 units/ml penicillin, and 50 mg/ml streptomycin, and were incubated at 37°C in a humidified incubator gassed with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. For T-Rex 293, blasticidin S (10 µg/ml) was also included. Cells grown into ~80% confluence were transfected with the desired DNA constructs using either the standard calcium phosphate precipitation method or lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen) following the protocol provided by the manufacturer. Transfected HEK 293T cells were reseeded on 12 mm round glass coverslips coated by poly-L-lysine. Experiments took place ~12-24 h after transfection.

#### **Cell lines**

HEK 293T and T-Rex 293 cell lines used in this study were respectively from the American Type Culture Collection and Thermo Fisher, authenticated by STR locus and tested negative for mycoplasma contamination.

#### **Mouse epidermal keratinocyte culture**

The animal protocol used in this study was approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of Wuhan University. Primary mouse keratinocytes were prepared according to the method previously described (Luo, Stewart, Berdeaux, & Hu, 2012; Pirrone, Hager, & Fleckman, 2005). Briefly, newborn wild-type C57B/6 mice (postnatal day 1–3) were deeply anaesthetized and decapitated and then soaked

in 10% povidone-iodine, 70% ethanol, and phosphate-buffered saline for 5 min, respectively. The skin on the back was removed and rinsed with pre-cold sterile phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) in a 100-mm Petri dish and transferred into a 2-ml tube filled with pre-cold digestion buffer containing 4 mg/ml dispase II and incubated overnight at 4 °C. After treatment with dispase II for 12-18 h, the epidermis was gently peeled off from dermis and collected. Keratinocytes were dispersed by gentle scraping and flushing with KC growth medium (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA). The resulting suspension of single cells was collected by centrifuge and, cells were seeded onto coverslips pre-coated with poly-L-lysine, and maintained in complete keratinocyte serum-free growth medium (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA). Cell culture medium was refreshed every two days. Patch-clamp recordings were carried out 48 h after plating.

### **Electrophysiological recording**

Conventional whole-cell and excised patch-clamp recording methods were used. For the recombinant expressing system, green fluorescent EGFP was used as a surface marker for gene expression. Recording pipettes were pulled from borosilicate glass capillaries (World Precision Instruments), and fire-polished to a resistance between 2–4 M $\Omega$  when filled with internal solution containing (in mM): 140 CsCl, 2.0 MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 5 EGTA, 10 HEPES, pH 7.4 (adjusted with CsOH). Bath solution contained (in mM): 140 NaCl, 5 KCl, 3 EGTA, and 10 HEPES, pH 7.4 adjusted with NaOH. For recordings in keratinocytes, the bath saline consisted of (in mM) 140 NaCl, 5 KCl, 2 MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 2 CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 10 glucoses, 10 HEPES, pH 7.4 adjusted with NaOH and the pipette

499 solution contained (in mM): 140 CsCl, 5 EGTA, and 10 HEPES, pH 7.3 adjusted with  
500 CsOH. For single-channel recordings, the pipette solution and bath solution were  
501 symmetrical and contained (in mM) 140 NaCl, 5 KCl, 3 EGTA, 10 HEPES, pH 7.4.  
502 Isolated cells were voltage clamped and held at -60 mV using an EPC10 amplifier  
503 with the Patchmaster software (HEKA, Lambrecht, Germany). For a subset of  
504 recordings, currents were amplified using an Axopatch 200B amplifier (Molecular  
505 Devices, Sunnyvale, CA) and recorded through a BNC-2090/MIO acquisition system  
506 (National Instruments, Austin, TX) using QStudio developed by Dr. Feng Qin at State  
507 University of New York at Buffalo. Whole-cell recordings were typically sampled at 5  
508 kHz and filtered at 1 kHz, and single-channel recordings were sampled at 25 kHz and  
509 filtered at 10 kHz. The compensation of pipette series resistance and capacitance were  
510 compensated using the built-in circuitry of the amplifier (>80%) to reduce voltage  
511 errors. Exchange of external solution was performed using a gravity-driven local  
512 perfusion system. As determined by the conductance tests, the solution around a patch  
513 under study was fully controlled by the application of a flow rate of 100  $\mu$ l/min or  
514 greater. Dyclonine hydrochloride, MTSET (2-(trimethylammonium)ethyl  
515 methanethiosulfonate, bromide) and carvacrol were purchased from MCE (Med Chem  
516 Express). Unless otherwise noted, all chemicals were purchased from Sigma  
517 (Millipore Sigma, St. Louis, MO). Water-insoluble reagents were dissolved in pure  
518 ethanol or DMSO to make a stock solution and diluted into the recording solution at  
519 the desired final concentrations before the experiment. The final concentrations of  
520 ethanol or DMSO did not exceed 0.3%, which had no effect to currents. In the



scratching behavior experiments, carvacrol was firstly dissolved in 10% ethanol and then diluted in normal saline before administration. All experiments except those for heat activation were performed at room temperature (22-24°C).

#### **Ultrafast temperature jump achievement**

Rapid temperature jumps were generated by the laser irradiation approach as described previously(Yao, Liu, & Qin, 2009). In brief, a single emitter infrared laser diode (1470 nm) was used as a heat source. A multimode fiber with a core diameter of 100  $\mu\text{m}$  was used to transmit the launched laser beam. The other end of the fiber exposed the fiber core was placed close to cells as the perfusion pipette is typically positioned. The laser diode driven by a pulsed quasi-CW current powder supply (Stone Laser, Beijing, China). Pulsing of the controller was controlled from computer through the data acquisition card using QStudio software developed by Dr. Feng Qin at State University of New York at Buffalo. A blue laser line (460 nm) was coupled into the fiber to aid alignment. The beam spot on the coverslip was identified by illumination of GFP-expressing cells using the blue laser during experiment.

Constant temperature steps were generated by irradiating the tip of an open pipette and using the current of the electrode as the readout for feedback control. The laser was first powered on for a brief duration to reach the target temperature and was then modulated to maintain a constant pipette current. The sequence of the modulation pulses was stored and subsequently played back to apply temperature jumps to the cell of interest. Temperature was calibrated offline from the pipette current using the

dependence of electrolyte conductivity.

### **Cell death analysis by flow cytometry**

T-Rex 293 cells were grown in DMEM containing 4.5 mg/ml glucose, 10% (vol/vol) FBS, 50 units/ml penicillin, 50 µg/ml streptomycin, and blasticidin S (10 µg/ml) and were incubated at 37°C in a humidified incubator gassed with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. Transfections were performed in wells of a 24-well plate using lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen). The GFP-TRPV3 (wild-type and G573 mutants) cDNAs in pcDNA4/TO vector were individually transfected into T-Rex 293 cells and treated with 20 ng/ml doxycycline 16 h post-transfection to induce the gene expression following the method as previously described (Xiao et al., 2008). Expression of GFP fluorescence detected by an epifluorescence microscope was used as an indicator of gene expression. After treatments with the compounds for 12 h, cells were collected, washed twice with phosphate-buffered saline (PBS), resuspended and then dyed with propidium iodide (PI, Thermo Fisher Scientific) in the dark according to the manufacturer's instructions. The membrane integrity of the cells was assessed using a BD FACSCelesta flow cytometer equipped with BD Accuri C6 software (BD Biosciences, USA).

### **Evaluation of scratching behavior in mice**

Behavioral studies were performed with six to eight-week-old wild-type or *Trpv3*<sup>-/-</sup> adult C57B/6 mice. To assess itch-scratching behaviors, the hair of the rostral part of the mouse right neck was shaved using an electric hair clipper 24 hours before the start of experiments. *Trpv3*<sup>-/-</sup> mice have been described previously (Wang et al., 2020).

Scratching behaviors were recorded on video. The number of itch-scratching bouts was counted through video playback analysis. One scratching bout was defined as an episode in which a mouse lifted its right hind limb to the injection site and scratched continuously for any time length until this limb was returned to the floor or mouth (Wilson et al., 2013). All behavioral experiments were conducted in a double-blind manner. To examine acute scratching/itch induced by carvacrol or pruritogen histamine, mice were firstly placed in an observation box (length, width, and height:  $9 \times 9 \times 13 \text{ cm}^3$ ) for acclimatization for about 30 minutes. Then carvacrol (0.1%) in a volume of 50  $\mu\text{l}$  was injected intradermally into the right side of the mouse neck. To access the effect of dyclonine on itch scratching, normal saline (0.9% NaCl) or dyclonine (1, 10, and 50  $\mu\text{M}$ ) was injected intradermally 30 minutes before intradermal injection of carvacrol (Cui et al., 2018; Sun & Dong, 2016). Behaviors were recorded on video for 30 minutes following the injection of carvacrol.

#### **Hargreaves test for behavioral experiments**

All tests were conducted during the light phase of the light/dark cycle by a trained observer blind to the genotype. Mice were habituated to the testing room for 60 min prior to the behavioral tests unless otherwise stated. The Hargreaves test was performed as described previously (Wang et al., 2018). All behavioral experiments were conducted in a double-blind manner. For measure of thermal hyperalgesia, animals were placed individually, 30 min after injection, on a hot plate (Bioseb, Chaville, France) with the temperature adjusted to 55 °C. The withdrawal latency of

each hind paw was determined until nocifensive reaction appeared (licking foot). Right hind paws of mice were injected intraplantarly with 10  $\mu$ l normal saline (0.9% NaCl). Left hind paws of mice were injected intraplantarly with 10  $\mu$ l normal saline (supplemented with 10 or 50  $\mu$ M dyclonine).

### **Molecular docking**

The molecular docking approach was used to model the interaction between dyclonine and TRPV3 channel protein (PDB ID code: 6DVZ) according to previous description (L. D. Huang et al., 2014; Li et al., 2018). The 3D structure of dyclonine was generated by LigPrep (Gadakar, Phukan, Dattatreya, & Balaji, 2007). Glide (Friesner et al., 2004) and Induce-Fit-Docking (IFD) (Sherman, Day, Jacobson, Friesner, & Farid, 2006) was employed to dock dyclonine into the potential binding. For Glide docking, the grid for the protein was defined as an enclosing cubic box within 34 Å to include upper pore region and the central cavity of TRPV3, and the extra precision (XP) docking mode was selected. During in silico docking, at most 100000 poses passed through for the initial phase of docking, among of which top 300 poses were processed with post-docking minimization. The threshold for rejecting minimized pose was set to 0.5 kcal/mol. A maximum of 200 poses were finally written out. The docking scores and dyclonine-residue interaction distance were summarized, sorted and then plotted by Maestro. Induced fit docking was performed to refine the interaction between dyclonine and TRPV3 (Sherman et al., 2006), L655, I674 and G638 residues were chosen from the center of the docking box, respectively. During this docking process, the protein and the dyclonine were both flexible. All

606 structural figures were made by PyMol (<http://www.pymol.org>).

## 607 **Statistics**

608 Data were analyzed offline with Clampfit (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, CA),  
609 IGOR (Wavemetrics, Lake Oswego, OR, USA), SigmaPlot (SPSS Science, Chicago,  
610 IL, USA) and OriginPro (OriginLab Corporation, MA, USA). For concentration  
611 dependence analysis, the modified Hill equation was used:  $Y = A1 + (A2 - A1) / (1 +$   
612  $(IC_{50} / [toxin])^{n_H})$ , in which  $IC_{50}$  is the half maximal effective concentration, and  $n_H$  is  
613 the Hill coefficient. Unless stated otherwise, the data are expressed as mean  $\pm$   
614 standard error (SEM), from a population of cells ( $n$ ), with statistical significance  
615 assessed by Student's  $t$ -test for two-group comparison or one-way analysis of variance  
616 (ANOVA) tests for multiple group comparisons. Significant difference is indicated by  
617 a  $p$  value less than 0.05 (\* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ ).

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630 **Conflict of Interest**

631 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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## Figure legends

### Figure 1. Inhibition of TRPV3 currents by dyclonine.

(A) Inhibition of 2-APB-evoked currents by dyclonine (Dyc) in a representative HEK 293T cell expressing mouse TRPV3. After sensitization by repeated application of 100  $\mu$ M 2-APB, the cell was exposed to 5 or 10  $\mu$ M dyclonine with 100  $\mu$ M 2-APB or 10  $\mu$ M dyclonine only as indicated by the bars. Membrane currents were recorded in whole-cell configuration, and the holding potential was -60 mV. (B) Summary of relative currents elicited by 100  $\mu$ M 2-APB in the presence of 0, 5 or 10  $\mu$ M dyclonine. Numbers of cells are indicated in parentheses. (C) The dose-response curve for dyclonine inhibition of TRPV3 currents was fitted by Hill's equation ( $IC_{50} = 3.2 \pm 0.24$   $\mu$ M and  $n_H = 2.2 \pm 0.32$ ,  $n = 6$ ). (D) Representative whole-cell current traces showing the responses to varying concentrations of 2-APB without or with 3  $\mu$ M dyclonine after full sensitization of TRPV3. (E) Concentration-response curves of 2-APB without or with dyclonine. Data are shown as relative values to the current evoked by 300  $\mu$ M 2-APB. Solid lines are fits to Hill equation, yielding  $EC_{50} = 22.93 \pm 0.02$   $\mu$ M and  $n_H = 1.6 \pm 0.1$  without dyclonine ( $n = 6$ ); and  $EC_{50} = 22.03 \pm 0.86$   $\mu$ M and  $n_H = 1.7 \pm 0.1$  with 3  $\mu$ M dyclonine ( $n = 6$ ). (F) Dose-response curves normalized to its own maximum of each condition. (G-H) Representative whole-cell recordings for the sensitization of TRPV3 currents elicited by repeated applications of 100  $\mu$ M 2-APB in the absence (G) and presence (H) of 5  $\mu$ M dyclonine. (I) Time courses toward the peak currents elicited by repeated application of 100  $\mu$ M 2-APB with or without dyclonine ( $n = 9$ ). Currents were normalized to each initial values. (J) The

2-APB-evoked inward currents were reversibly inhibited by dyclonine in primary mouse epidermal keratinocytes. Representative inward currents were firstly activated by repeated application of 300  $\mu$ M 2-APB at the holding potential of -60 mV, and then inhibited by 5 or 30  $\mu$ M dyclonine or 10  $\mu$ M Ruthenium Red (RR) as indicated. **(K)** Summary of relative currents elicited by 300  $\mu$ M 2-APB with or without dyclonine. **(L)** Dose dependence of dyclonine effects on TRPV3 currents in cultured keratinocytes. The solid line corresponds to a fit by Hill's equation with  $IC_{50} = 5.2 \pm 0.71$   $\mu$ M and  $n_H = 2.4 \pm 0.75$  ( $n = 6$ ). The dotted line indicates zero current level.

**Figure 2. Dyclonine is a potent inhibitor of TRPV3 channel.**

**(A)** Representative inward current traces from whole-cell voltage-clamp recordings show the inhibitory effects of 10  $\mu$ M dyclonine on TRPV1 (**A<sub>1</sub>**), TRPV2 (**A<sub>2</sub>**), TRPV3 (**A<sub>3</sub>**), TRPM8 (**A<sub>4</sub>**) or TRPA1 (**A<sub>5</sub>**) channels (Dyc, dyclonine; Cap, capsaicin; Men, menthol). Bars represent duration of drug application. **(B)** Summary of relative currents before and after dyclonine (10  $\mu$ M) treatment. Numbers of cells are indicated in parentheses. **(C)** Dose-response curves of dyclonine for inhibition of indicated ion channel currents. Solid lines represent fits by Hill equation, with  $IC_{50} = 337.4 \pm 19.4$   $\mu$ M and  $n_H = 2.0 \pm 0.31$  for TRPV1 ( $n = 7$ ),  $IC_{50} = 31.1 \pm 2.7$   $\mu$ M and  $n_H = 2.9 \pm 0.50$  for TRPV2 ( $n = 8$ ),  $IC_{50} = 81.8 \pm 12.7$   $\mu$ M and  $n_H = 1.2 \pm 0.20$  for TRPM8 ( $n = 6$ ),  $IC_{50} = 154.7 \pm 15.6$   $\mu$ M and  $n_H = 1.3 \pm 0.15$  for TRPA1 ( $n = 6$ ). For comparison, the dose-response curve of TRPV3 channel from Figure 1C is displayed in red with  $IC_{50} = 3.2 \pm 0.24$   $\mu$ M and  $n_H = 2.2 \pm 0.32$  ( $n = 6$ ). **(D)** Suppression of 2-APB-evoked

currents by dyclonine in a hTRPV3-expressing HEK293T cell. Representative inward current trace shows the reversible block effect of dyclonine (30 and 50  $\mu\text{M}$ ) at the holding potential of -60 mV. (E) Summary of inhibition of hTRPV3 by dyclonine. Membrane currents were normalized to the responses elicited by the saturated concentration of 2-APB (100  $\mu\text{M}$ ) alone. (F) Dose-response curve for dyclonine on blocking of hTRPV3. Solid line represents a fit to a Hill equation, yielded  $\text{IC}_{50} = 16.2 \pm 0.72 \mu\text{M}$  and  $n_H = 1.91 \pm 0.14$  ( $n = 11$ ). (G) Inhibition of fTRPV3 currents by dyclonine. Representative whole-cell currents at -60 mV in a fTRPV3-expressing HEK293T cell. After sensitization by repeated application of 3 mM 2-APB, the cell was exposed sequentially to 15 and 30  $\mu\text{M}$  dyclonine with 3 mM 2-APB. (H) Summary of inhibition of relative currents elicited by 3 mM 2-APB, 3 mM 2-APB with dyclonine 15 or 30  $\mu\text{M}$ . (I) Concentration-response curve of dyclonine on the inhibition of fTRPV3 currents. Solid line represents a fit by a Hill equation, with  $\text{IC}_{50} = 12.31 \pm 1.6 \mu\text{M}$  and  $n_H = 1.6 \pm 0.34$  ( $n = 7$ ). The dotted line indicates zero current level. Dyc, dyclonine; hTRPV3, human TRPV3; fTRPV3, frog TRPV 3.

**Figure 3. The inhibitory effect of dyclonine on TRPV3 channel is voltage-independent.**

(A) Representative whole-cell currents evoked by voltage steps (*inset*) together with 40  $\mu\text{M}$  2-APB in the absence and presence of 10, 30  $\mu\text{M}$  dyclonine or 10  $\mu\text{M}$  RR in HEK 293T cells expressing mouse TRPV3. Currents were elicited with 200-ms test

pulses ranging from -160 mV to +180 mV in 20-mV increments within the same cells, and the holding potential was -60 mV. Calcium-free standard bath solution and a CsCl-filled recording electrode were used. The dotted line indicates zero current level. (B) Current-voltage relations for data in (A). Current amplitudes were normalized to the maximum responses at +180 mV in the presence of 40  $\mu$ M 2-APB. Each point represents mean values ( $\pm$  SEM) from eight independent cells. (*Inset*) The inhibition effects of dyclonine and RR on TRPV3 currents at negative holding potentials is magnified and displayed on the right. Note that dyclonine had an inhibitory effect on TRPV3 currents at both positive and negative potentials, but RR only inhibited TRPV3 channel currents at negative potentials while enhanced TRPV3 currents at positive potentials (blue trace). (C) Percentage block of TRPV3 currents by dyclonine (10 and 30  $\mu$ M) as a function of membrane potential. Error bars represent SEM.

**Figure 4. Inhibition of heat-activated TRPV3 currents by dyclonine.**

(A) Sensitization of TRPV3 by heat. Heat-evoked TRPV3 currents in response to repeated temperature jumps. Temperature pulse generated by infrared laser diode irradiation was stepped from room temperature to 51 °C in 1.5 ms and then clamped for 100 ms. (B) Effects of dyclonine on heat-activated TRPV3 currents. Heat-evoked current traces were recorded in whole-cell configuration, which were stabilized by sensitization of repeated fast temperature jumps as shown in (A). Temperature jumps shown on the top had a duration of 100 ms and a rise time of 1.5 ms. Bath solution with 0 or 30  $\mu$ M dyclonine was applied by brief perfusion to the patch just before

temperature stimulation on the same cells. (C) The average plot compares the temperature responses in the absence and presence of 30  $\mu$ M dyclonine (*Left*,  $n = 6$ ). Currents were normalized by their maximum responses under control condition, respectively. Note that data from control and washout are superimposed. Percentage block of heat-evoked TRPV3 currents by 30  $\mu$ M dyclonine as a function of temperature is shown on the right. (D) Representative inward currents evoked by a series of identical temperature jumps inhibited by dyclonine in a concentration-dependent manner. The temperature pulse (52 °C) is shown in gray. Holding potential was -60 mV. (E) Dose dependence of dyclonine effects on heat-activated TRPV3 currents. The solid line represents a fit to Hill's equation with  $IC_{50} = 14.1 \pm 2.5 \mu$ M and  $n_H = 1.9 \pm 0.54$  ( $n = 10$ ). All whole-cell recordings were got from TRPV3-expressing HEK 293T cells held at -60 mV.

**Figure 5. Dyclonine rescued cell death caused by expression of overactive TRPV3 mutant.**

(A-B) Effects of dyclonine on whole-cell currents recorded from TRPV3(G573S) and TRPV3(G573C) expressed in T-Rex 293 cells, showing that dyclonine (3 and 10  $\mu$ M) reversibly inhibited the response to 300  $\mu$ M 2-APB and the spontaneous activities at -60 mV. 20  $\mu$ M RR was applied for subtracting leak currents. Bars represent duration of drug application. (C) Averaged inhibition of spontaneous activities of G573 mutants by dyclonine and RR. (D) Summary of relative whole-cell currents of

TRPV3(WT), G573S and G573S with or without dyclonine treatment. Error bars represent SEM. (E) Bright field and fluorescence images showing the cell survival. The GFP-tagged TRPV3 (wild-type, WT) and two mutants (G573C and G573S) in pcDNA4/TO vector were respectively transfected into T-Rex 293 cells, and then treated with doxycycline (20 ng/ml) for 16 h post-transfection to induce gene expression in the presence of drugs as indicated. Images of cells were taken at 12 h after induction. Scale bar, 50  $\mu$ m. (F) Flow cytometry analysis of the percentage of dead cells. Cells transfected with the desired plasmids are as indicated. After the gene expression induced by doxycycline, the cells were treated with dyclonine (Dyc, 50  $\mu$ M), 2-APB (30  $\mu$ M), ruthenium red (RR, 10  $\mu$ M) or the combination of 2-APB and dyclonine, and then stained with propidium iodide, followed by flow cytometry to analyze cell survival. (G) Summary plots of cell death rates under different treatments. Data were averaged from seven independent experiments. \*\*\*  $P < 0.0001$ .

#### **Figure 6 Dyclonine suppresses scratching behavior induced by carvacrol.**

(A) Summary of the time courses of neck-scratching behaviors in wild-type TRPV3 and TRPV3 knock out (C57BL/6) mice after intradermal injection of 50  $\mu$ l carvacrol (0.1%) or normal saline (0.9% NaCl) containing 0.1% ethanol into the mouse neck. Time for scratching bouts was plotted for each five-minute interval over the 30 minutes observation period. (B) Quantification of the cumulative scratching bouts over 30 minutes under different treatments, showing that intradermal injection of carvacrol elicited a remarkable increase in the number of scratching bouts in

TRPV3<sup>+/+</sup> but not TRPV3<sup>-/-</sup> mice. ( $n = 6$ ; N.S., no significance;  $*P < 0.05$ ;  $**P < 0.01$ ;  $***P < 0.001$ , by one way ANOVA). (C) Time courses of neck-scratching behaviors in response to intradermal injection of 50  $\mu$ l carvacrol (0.1%), with pretreatment of normal saline (0.9% NaCl), or different concentrations (1, 10, 50  $\mu$ M) of dyclonine in the same site. (D) Summary plots of the number of scratching bouts over 30 minutes under different treatments as indicated, showing that dyclonine dose-dependently alleviated carvacrol-evoked acute itch. ( $n = 6$ ; N.S., no significance;  $*P < 0.05$ ;  $**P < 0.01$ ;  $***P < 0.001$ , by one way ANOVA). (E) Inhibition of carvacrol-evoked currents by dyclonine (Dyc) in a representative HEK 293T cell expressing TRPV3. After sensitization by repeated application of 300  $\mu$ M 2-APB, the cell was exposed to 3, 30 or 50  $\mu$ M dyclonine with 500  $\mu$ M Carvacrol as indicated by the bars. Membrane currents were recorded in a whole-cell configuration, and the holding potential was -60 mV. (F) The dose-response curve for dyclonine inhibition of carvacrol-evoked TRPV3 currents was fitted by Hill's equation ( $IC_{50} = 3.5 \pm 0.34$   $\mu$ M and  $n_H = 2.1 \pm 0.41$ ,  $n = 8$ ).

**Figure 7. Effects of dyclonine on single channel properties of TRPV3.**

(A) Single-channel currents of TRPV3 were recorded from inside-out membrane patches of HEK 293T cells at two membrane potentials ( $\pm 60$  mV) in symmetrical 150 mM NaCl and were low-pass filtered at 2 kHz. Currents were evoked by 10  $\mu$ M 2-APB in the absence and presence of dyclonine (30  $\mu$ M) after sensitization induced by repetitive 300  $\mu$ M 2-APB. All-point amplitude histograms of single-channel

currents were shown below the current traces. The histograms were fit to sums of two Gaussian functions to determine the average amplitudes of currents and the open probabilities. Dotted lines indicate the opened channel state (O) and the closed channel state (C), respectively. **(B)** Summary of effects of dyclonine on TRPV3 single-channel open probability. Dyclonine (30  $\mu$ M) decreased TRPV3 open probability from  $0.8 \pm 0.02$  to  $0.08 \pm 0.01$  at -60 mV ( $n = 6$ ), and from  $0.82 \pm 0.02$  to  $0.12 \pm 0.01$  at +60 mV ( $n = 6$ ), respectively. **(C)** I-V relationships of TRPV3 single-channel current evoked by 10  $\mu$ M 2-APB without (black triangles) and with 30  $\mu$ M dyclonine (red circles). Unitary conductance measured by fitting a linear function were  $163.6 \pm 6.4$  pS and  $179.2 \pm 5.5$  pS for before and after treatment by dyclonine, respectively.

# **Figure 8. Molecular residues involved in dyclonine-TRPV3 interaction.**

**(A)** Overall view of the mTRPV3-dyclonine complex. Three putative binding modes (BM) for dyclonine in the pore cavity of mTRPV3 channel (PDB ID code: 6DVZ) are denoted as BM<sub>A</sub>, BM<sub>B</sub> and BM<sub>C</sub> (please find the details in the text), with the expanded view of BM<sub>A</sub> shown on the right. Four subunits of the tetramer are distinguished by different colors, and dyclonine in a schematic structure is shown in red. **(B)** *Left*: potential docking poses of dyclonine and TRPV3 channel. *Right*: cluster analysis showing all binding modes distributed into 3 clusters, BM<sub>A</sub>, BM<sub>B</sub> and BM<sub>C</sub>. **(C)** Representative whole-cell recordings show reversible blocking of 2-APB (1



994 mM)-evoked responses by dyclonine (3, 10 or 30  $\mu$ M) in HEK 293T cells expressing  
995 mutant TRPV3 channels as indicated, respectively. The combination of 3, 10 or 30  
996  $\mu$ M dyclonine and 2-APB was applied following the control currents evoked by a  
997 saturated concentration of 2-APB (1 mM, initial grey bar). Holding potential was -60  
998 mV. Bars represent duration of stimuli. **(D)** Concentration-response curves of  
999 dyclonine on inhibition of the TRPV3 mutants. Solid lines represent fits by a Hill  
1000 equation, with the half-maximal inhibitory concentration ( $IC_{50}$ ) shown in **(E)**. For  
1001 comparison, the dose-response curve of wild-type channel is displayed in gray. Four  
1002 point mutations (L630W, N643A, I644W and L655A) reduced the inhibitory  
1003 efficiency of dyclonine, while the other two point mutations (L642A and I659A)  
1004 enhanced the inhibitory effects of dyclonine on TRPV3 currents. **(F)** Average current  
1005 responses of mutant channels compared with wild-type TRPV3 channels. Each  
1006 substitution of putative residues except L639A retained their normal responses to  
1007 2-APB. Numbers of cells are indicated in parentheses. **(G)** Modulation of  
1008 thiol-oxidizing and disulfide-reducing agents on the inhibitory effects of dyclonine.  
1009 Whole-cell recordings from the wild-type TRPV3 and the mutants expressed in HEK  
1010 293T cells, showing the effects of MTSET and DTT on the responses to 2-APB with  
1011 or without dyclonine after sensitization induced by 300  $\mu$ M 2-APB. MTSET (1 mM)  
1012 and DTT (10 mM) were locally applied for ~3 min to probe the accessibility,  
1013 respectively. The responsiveness to 2-APB or 2-APB plus dyclonine was subsequently  
1014 examined before and after treatments. Holding potential was -60 mV. **(H)** Summary of  
1015 inhibition of relative currents elicited by 300  $\mu$ M 2-APB, 300  $\mu$ M 2-APB with

dyclonine 10 or 1  $\mu$ M. **(I)** Summary of inhibitory effects of dyclonine before and after treatments with MTSET and DTT. The dotted line indicates zero current level in all cases. Error bar represents SEM. N.S., no significance; \* $P < 0.05$ ; \*\* $P < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ .

**Figure 6—figure Supplement 1. Effects of dyclonine on the excitability of mouse DRG and TG neurons as well as the TRPV3-mediated nociceptive behavior.**

**(A-B)** Current-clamp responses of DRG and TG neurons to 500 ms current pulse injection, respectively. Protocol of injected current is shown on the top. **(C)** Statistics plot showing no significant changes for RMP (resting membrane potential) from DRG or TG neurons in the presence of dyclonine (10  $\mu$ M) compared with control. RMP were  $-44 \pm 1.3$  mV ( $n = 5$ ) vs.  $-45 \pm 0.9$  mV ( $n = 5$ ) treated with dyclonine in DRG neurons, and  $-44.8 \pm 1.3$  mV ( $n = 5$ ) vs.  $-47.2 \pm 1.9$  mV ( $n = 5$ ) treated with dyclonine in TG neurons. **(D)** Comparison of averaged frequency of action potential (AP) firing (numbers of action potential firing) evoked by current injection of 125 pA lasting for 500 ms in DRG and TG neurons. **(E)** Paw withdrawal or licking latencies to noxious thermal stimuli at 55 °C evaluating the effect of dyclonine on thermal pain sensing. The paw withdrawal latencies (PWL) were  $16.57 \pm 0.46$  s ( $n = 12$ ),  $18.08 \pm 0.03$  s ( $n = 12$ ) and  $18.82 \pm 0.42$  s ( $n = 12$ ) for hind paws with intraplantar injection with saline, 10  $\mu$ M and 50  $\mu$ M dyclonine in *TRPV3*<sup>+/+</sup> mice, respectively. The PWL were  $18.93 \pm 0.61$  s ( $n = 12$ ),  $18.23 \pm 0.52$  s ( $n = 12$ ), and  $18.61 \pm 0.46$  s ( $n = 12$ ) for hind paws

with intraplantar injection with saline, 10  $\mu$ M and 50  $\mu$ M dyclonine in *TRPV3*<sup>-/-</sup> mice.

N.S., no significance; \**P* < 0.05; \*\**P* < 0.01; \*\*\**P* < 0.001.

**Figure 8—figure supplement 1. Residues in the TRPV3 channel pore for interacting with dyclonine.**

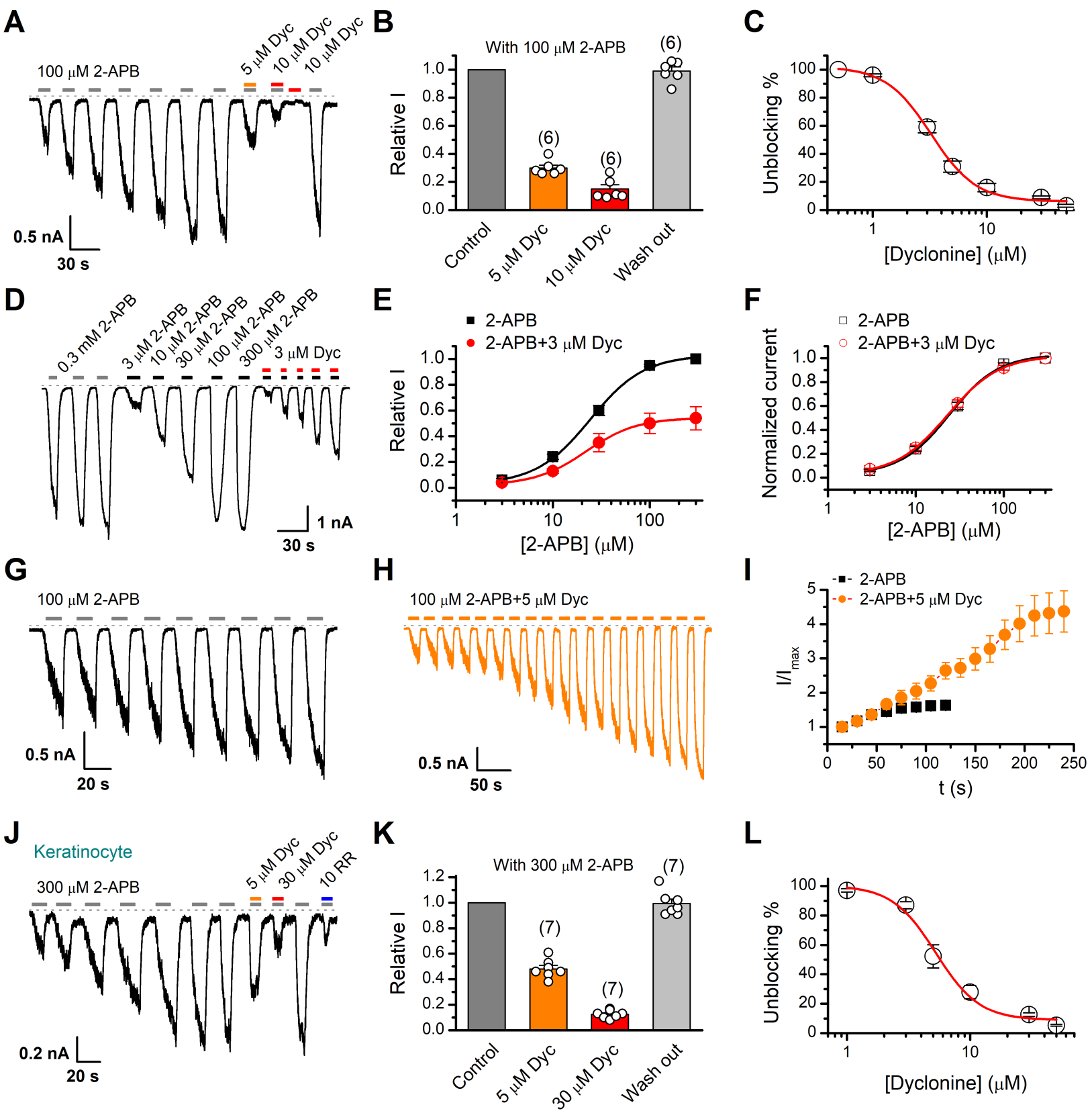
(A) Receptor grid for docking generated with 35 Å × 35 Å × 35 Å dimensions. (B) Detailed binding modes of dyclonine in BM<sub>B</sub> and BM<sub>C</sub>. The putative interaction residues are labeled and dyclonine is displayed in sticks for emphasis. (C) Representative whole-cell recordings show reversible blocking of 2-APB (1 mM)-evoked responses by dyclonine (10 or 30  $\mu$ M) in HEK 293T cells expressing mutant TRPV3 channels as indicated, respectively. Holding potential was -60 mV. Bars represent duration of stimuli. (D) Concentration-response curves of dyclonine on inhibition of the TRPV3 mutants. Solid lines represent fits by a Hill equation, with the half-maximal inhibitory concentration (IC<sub>50</sub>) shown in (E). For comparison, the dose-response curve of wild-type is displayed in gray. (F) Average current responses of mutant channels compared with wild-type TRPV3 channels. Only cells that expressed I637A, F666A or I674A showed similar response as wild-type channel, while others with the substitution by alanine were not functional. Numbers of cells are indicated in parentheses. (G) Structures assigned to apo/resting (left) and open states (right). (H) Cavity fostered by the pore helix and S5-S6 domains of TRPV3 channels at the resting (left) and open (right) states.

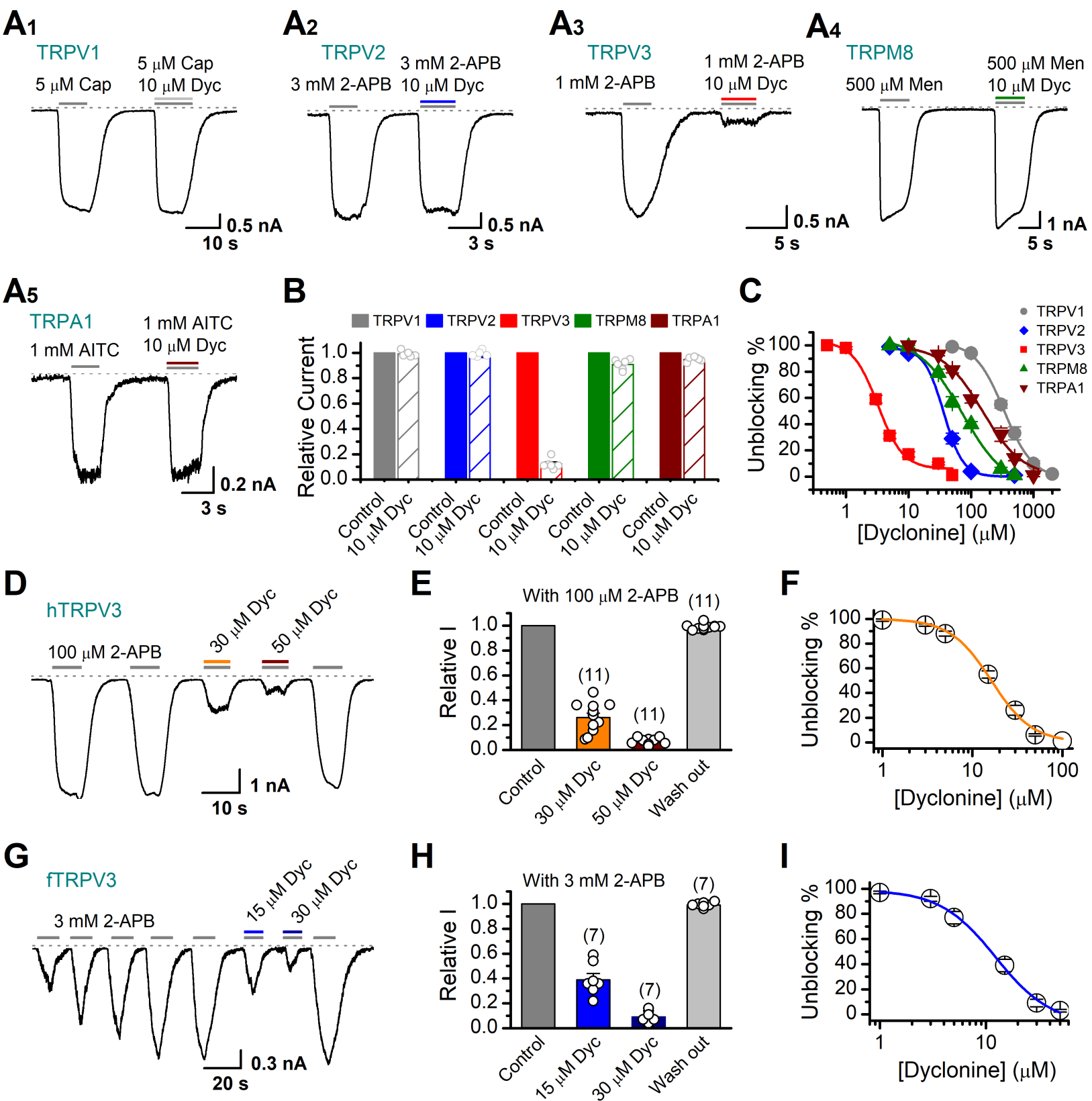
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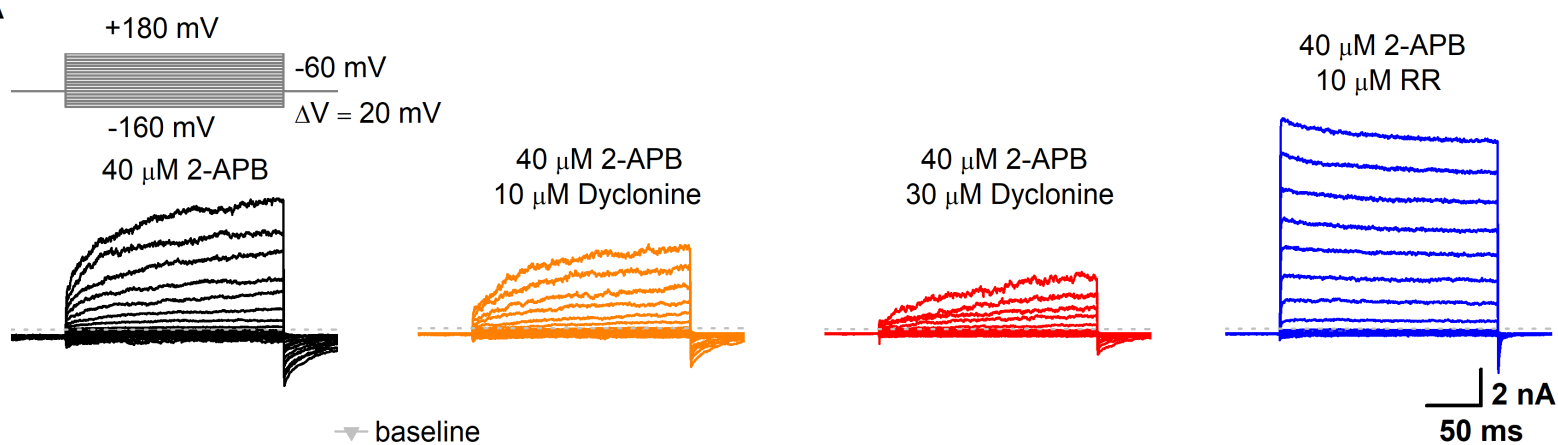
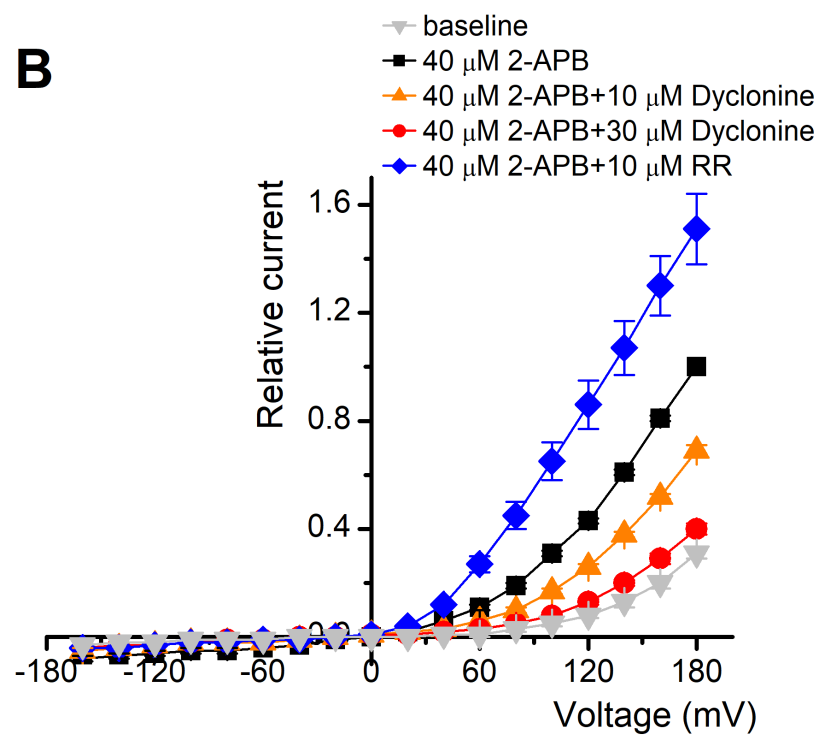
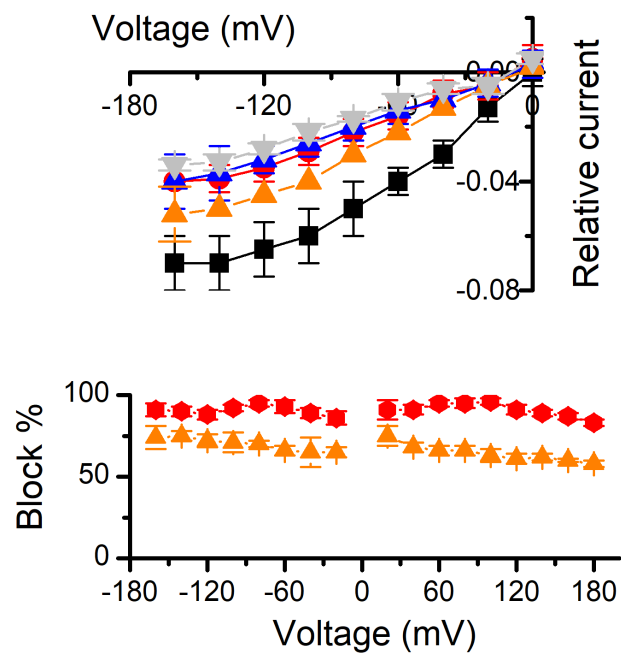
1059 **Figure 8—figure supplement 2. Alignment of the pore-region sequences.**

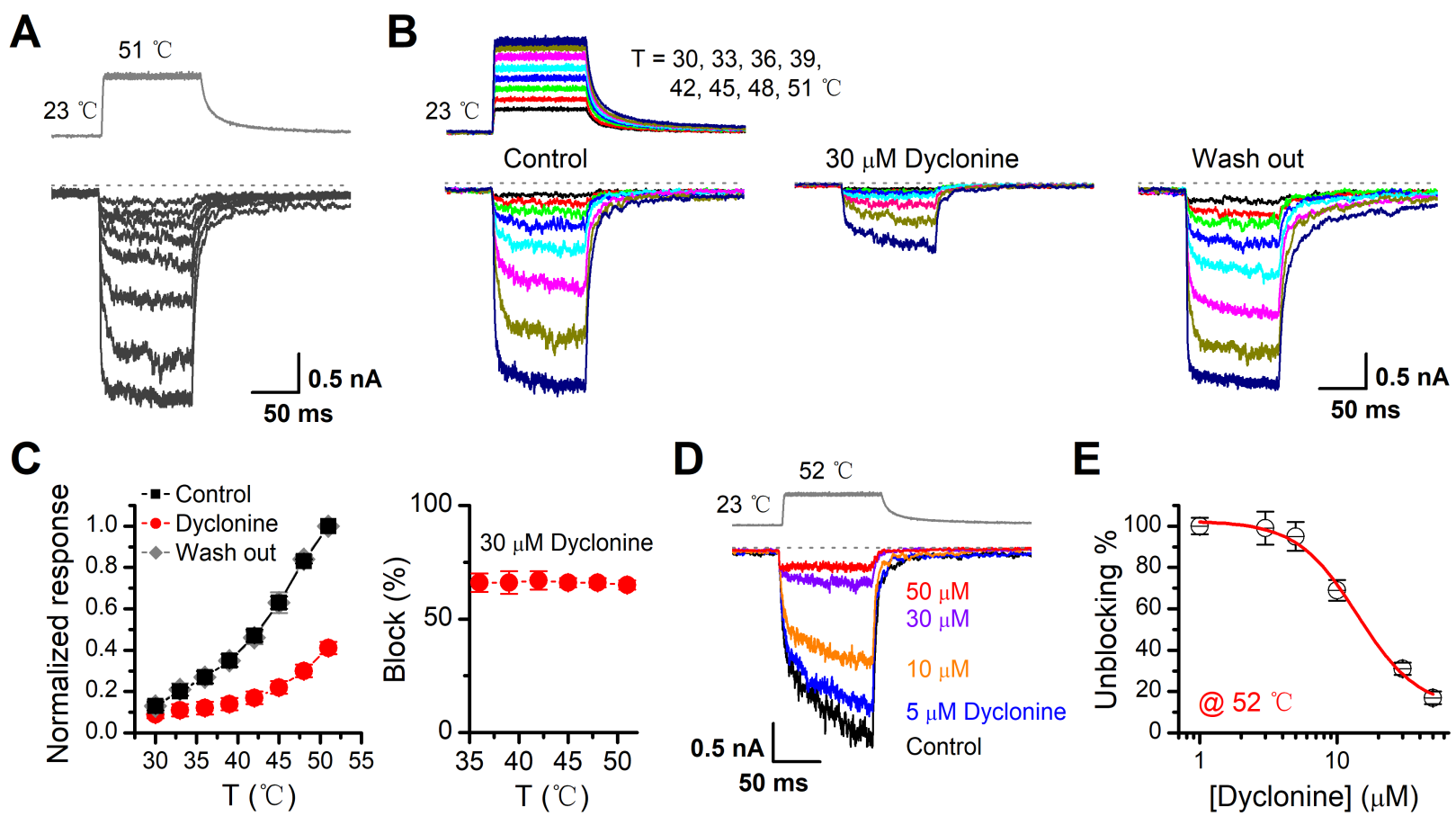
1060 Alignment of the pore sequence of mTRPV3 with other TRP channels, with the  
1061 identical or similar residues shaded in colors. Meanwhile, differences in amino acids  
1062 compositions present for different channels. The key residues of TPRV3 are indicated  
1063 at the top, which affects the inhibitory effect of dyclonine.

1064

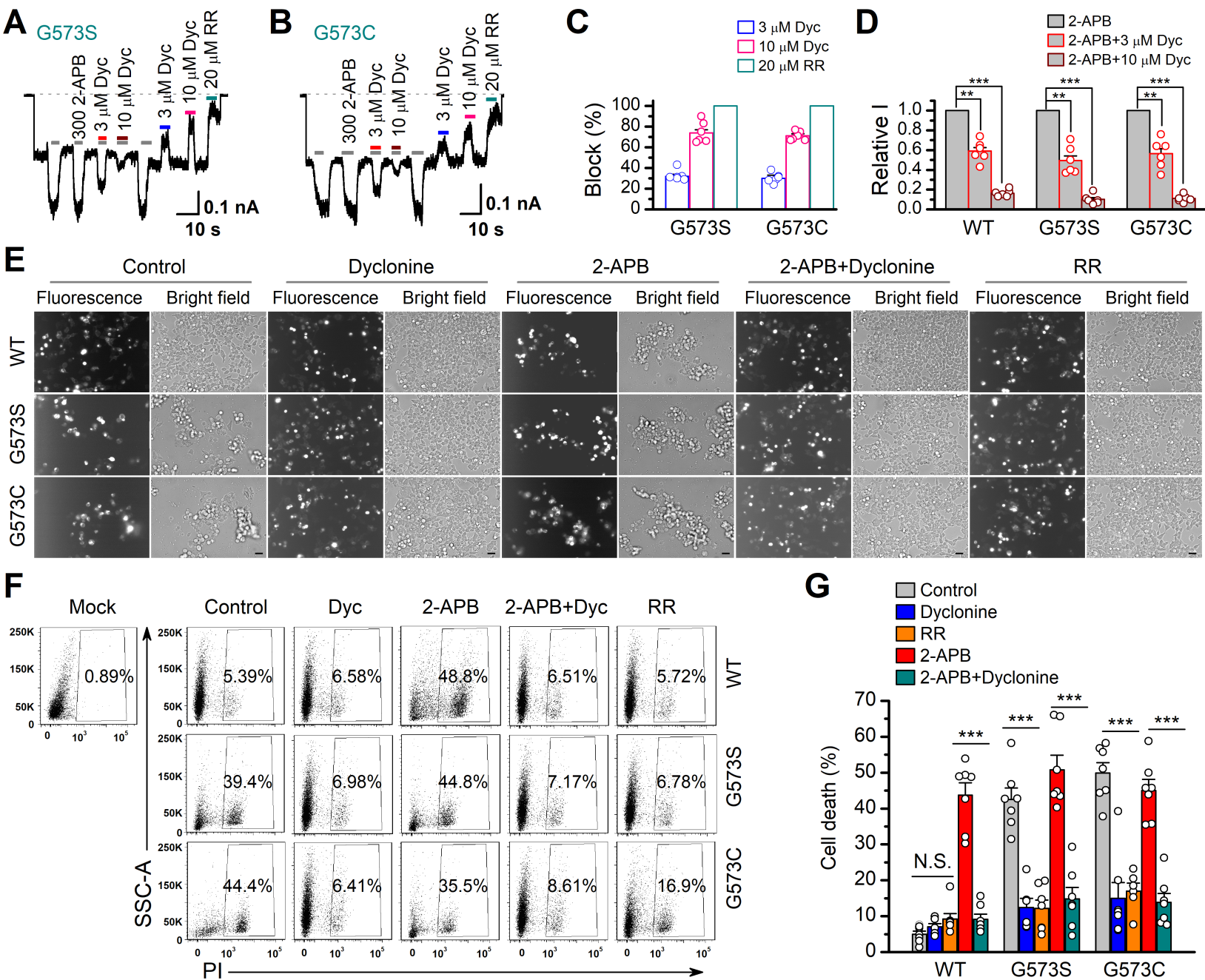


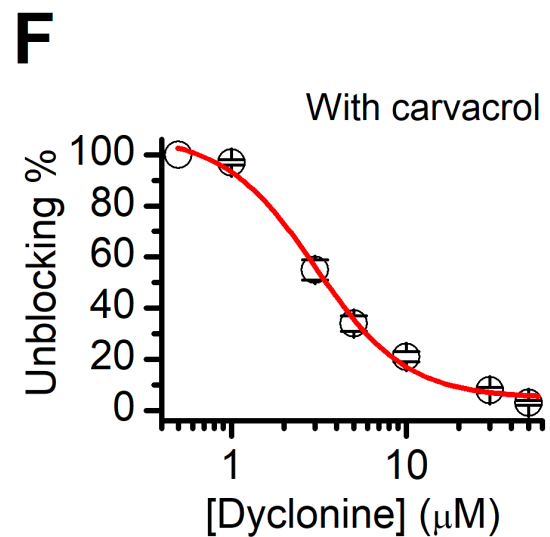
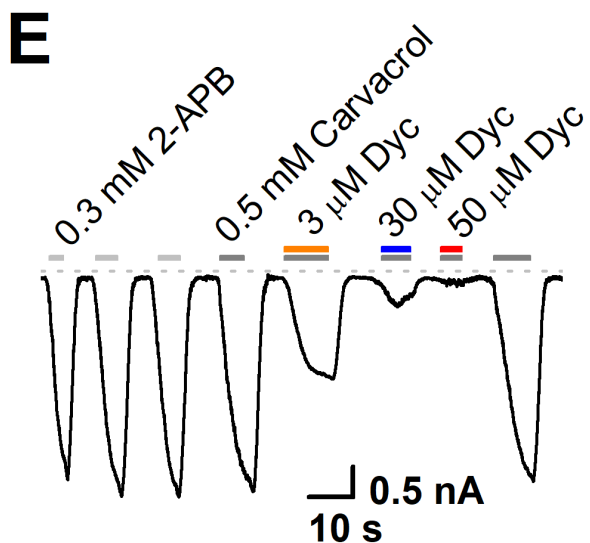
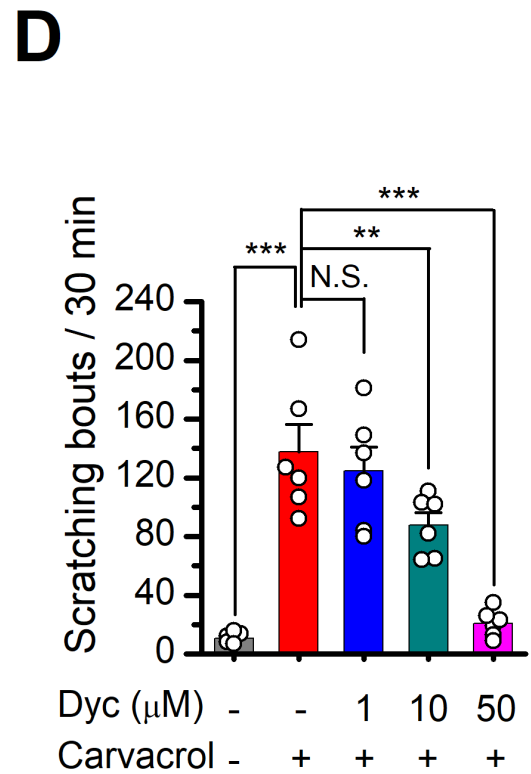
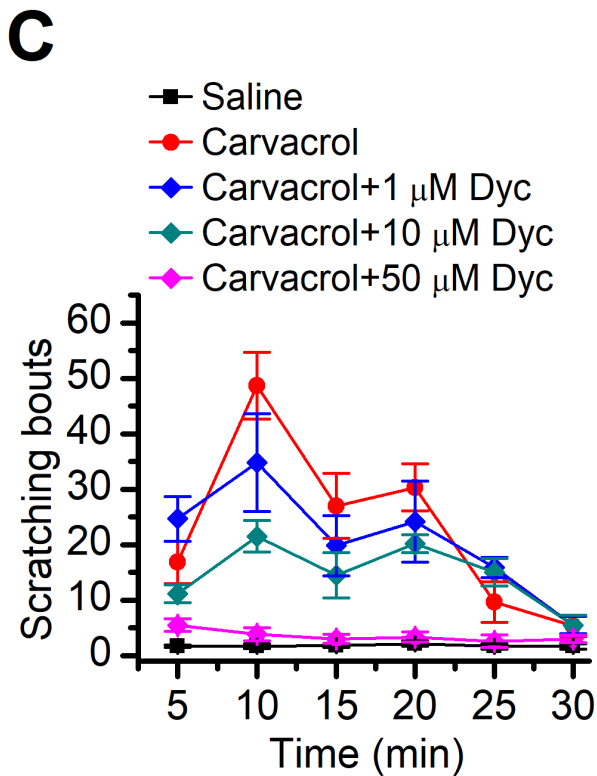
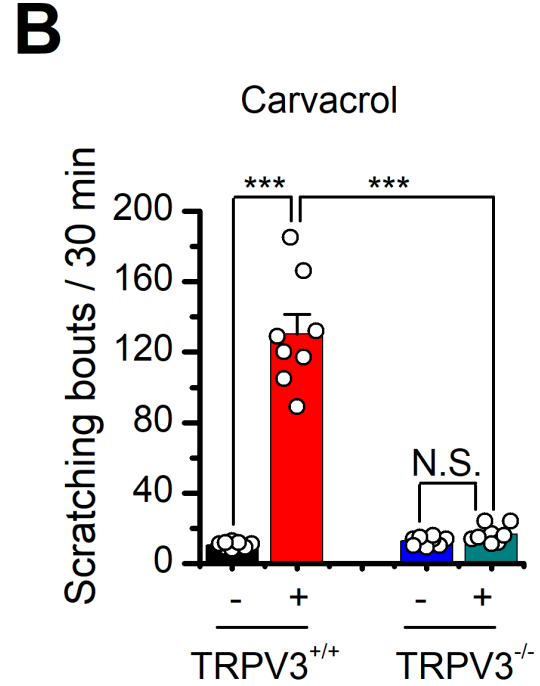
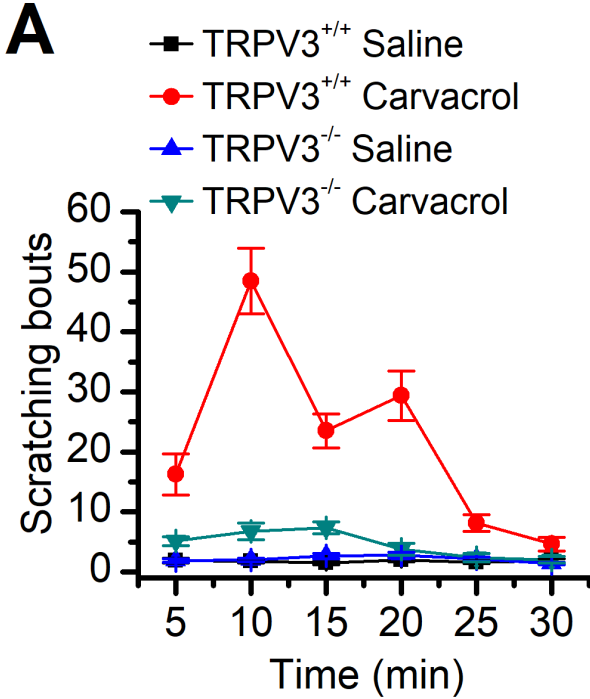


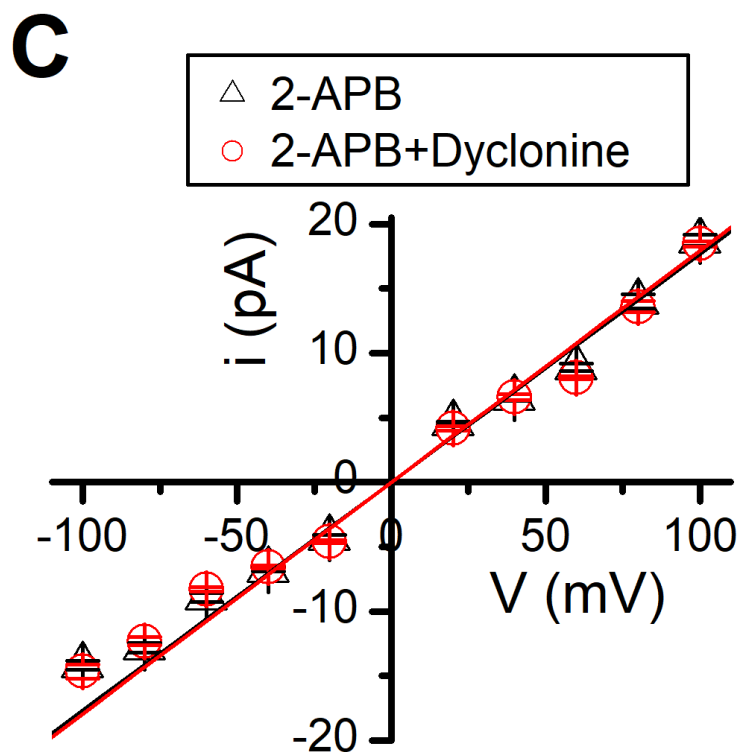
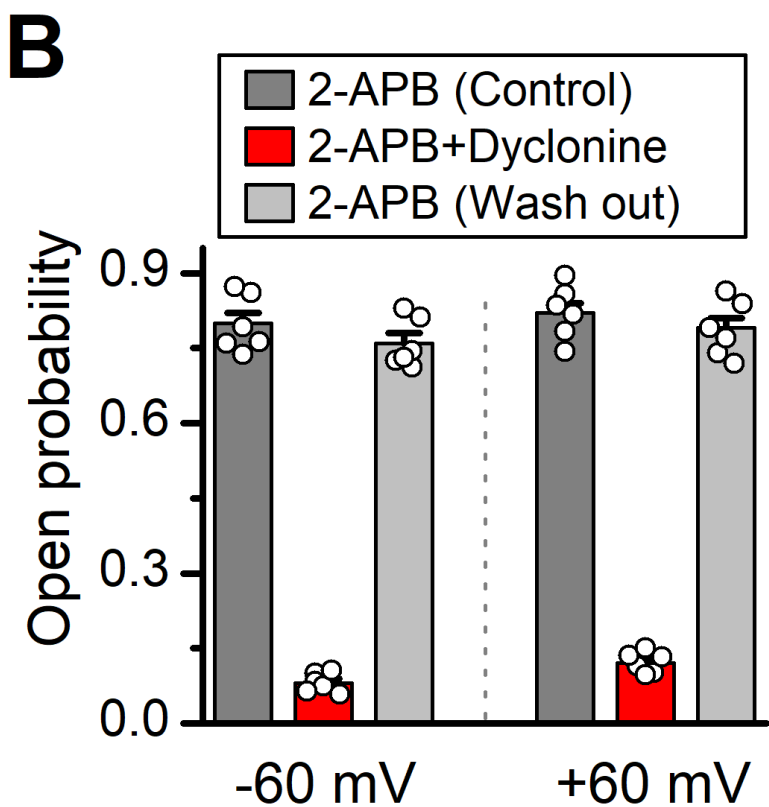
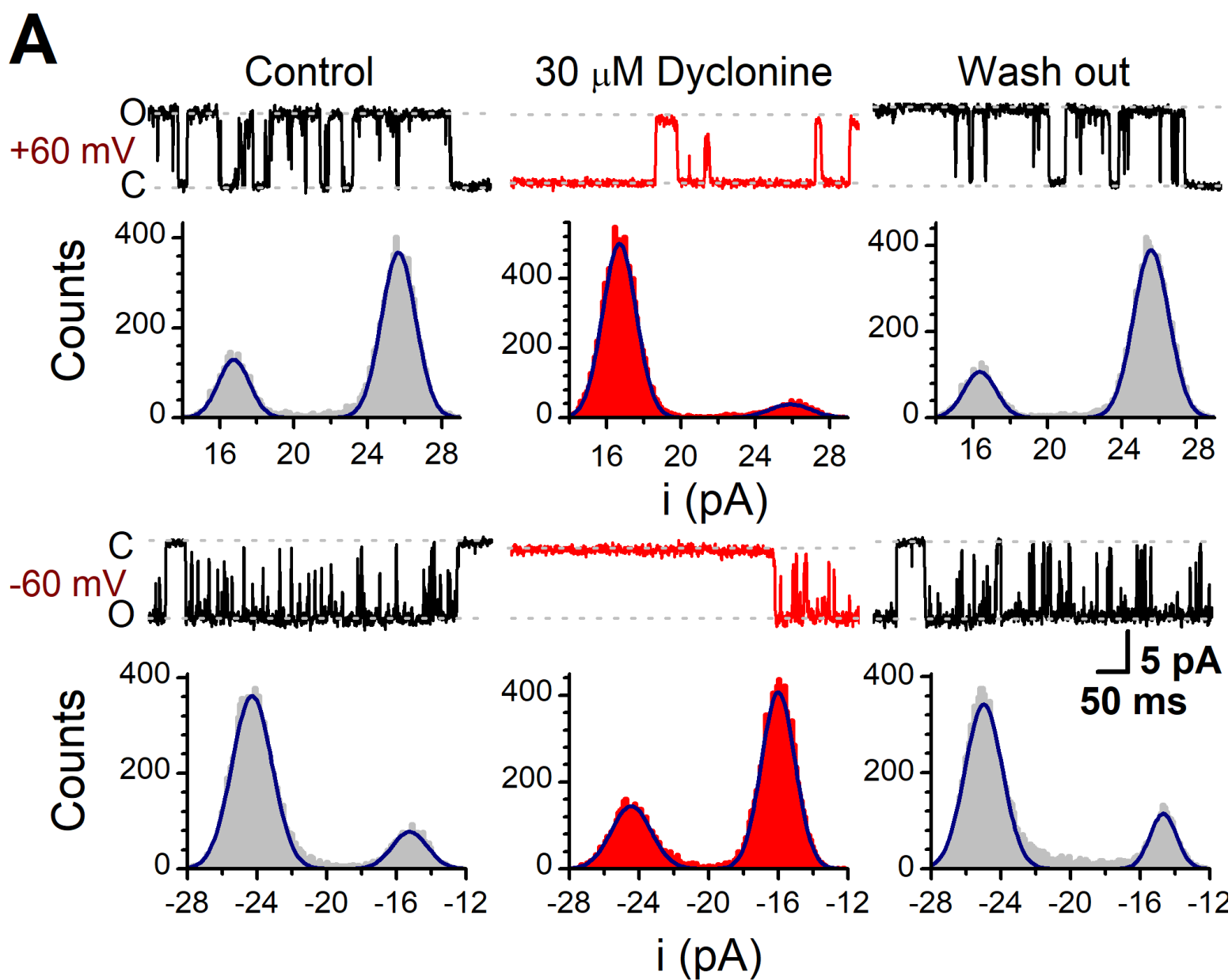
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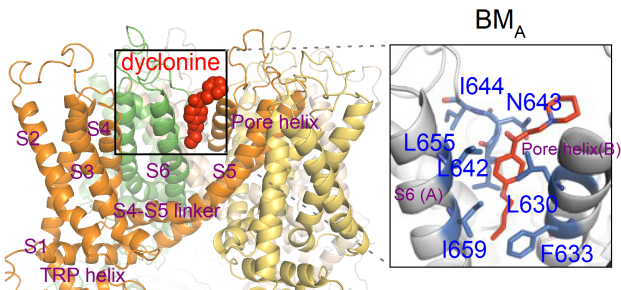
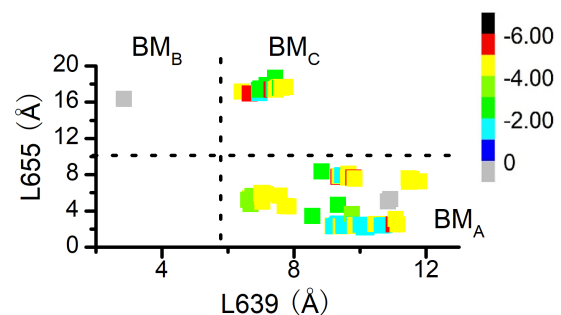
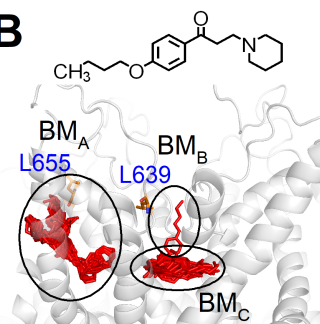
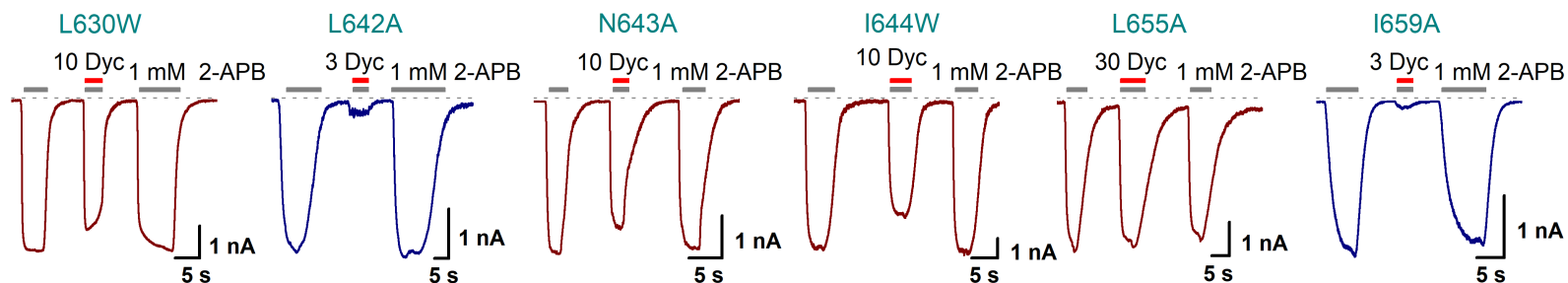
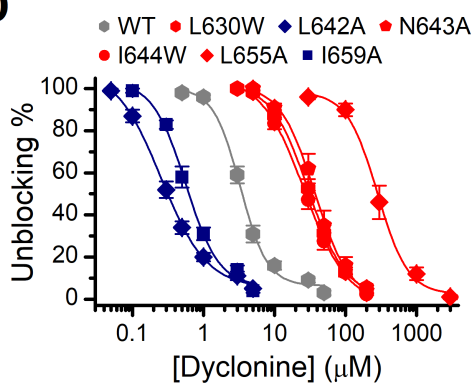
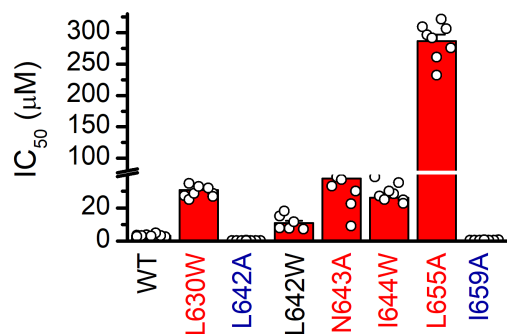
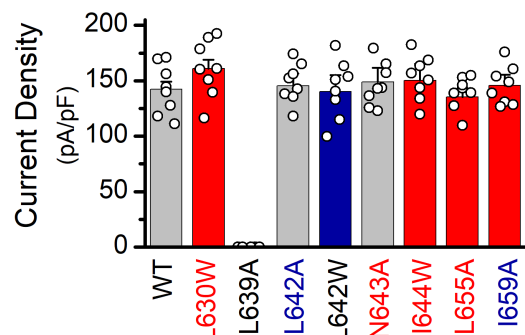
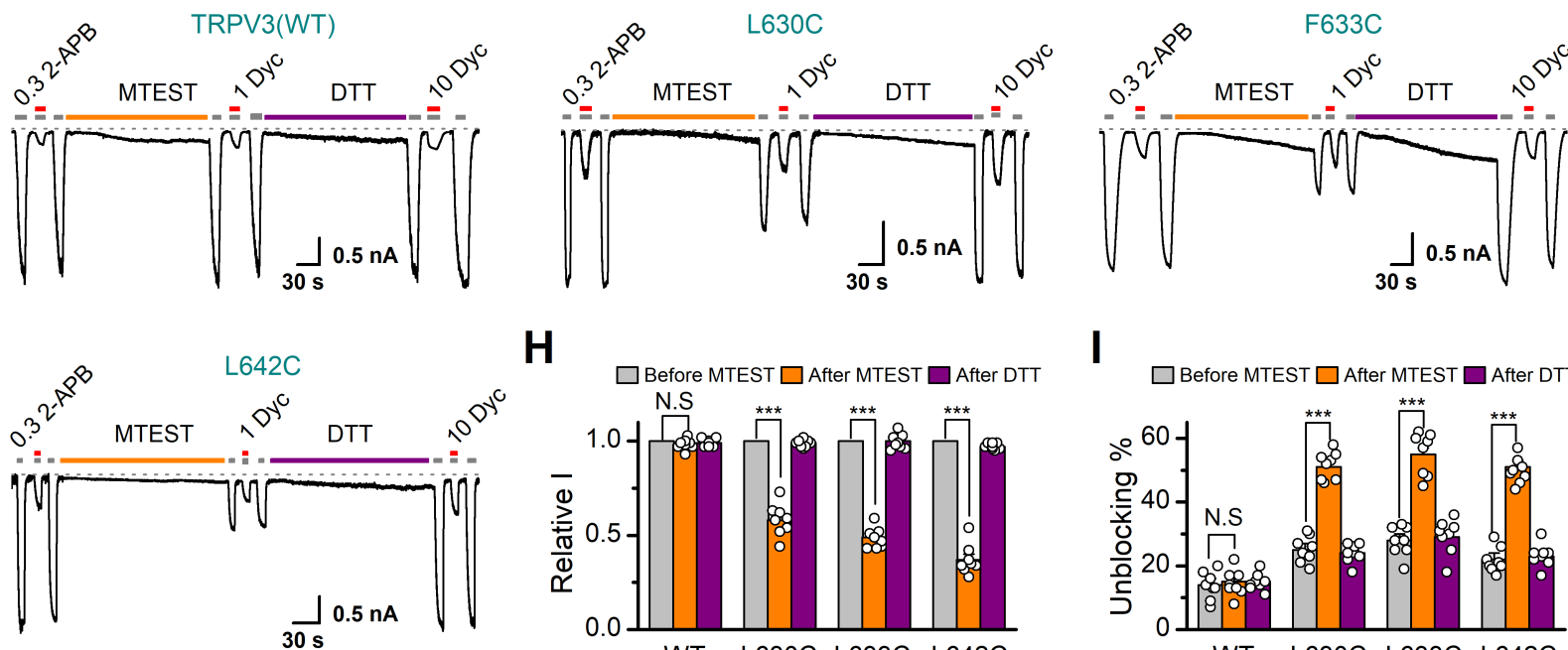
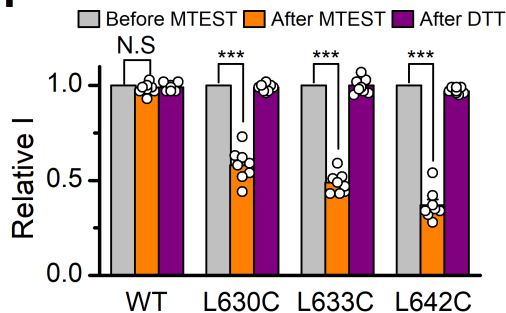
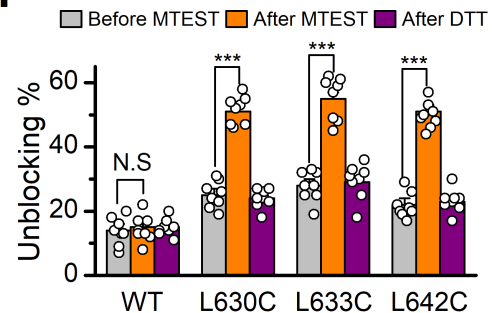


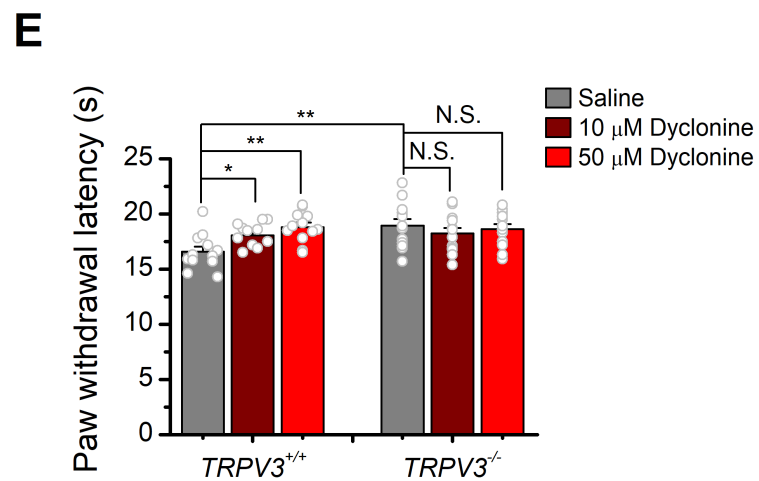
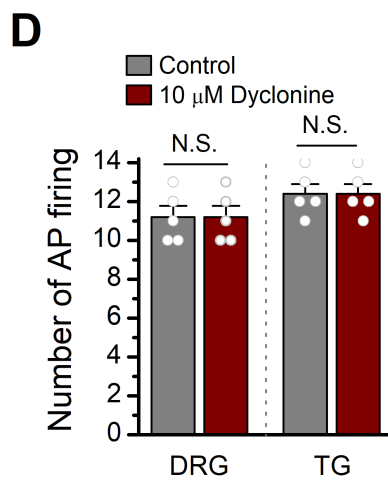
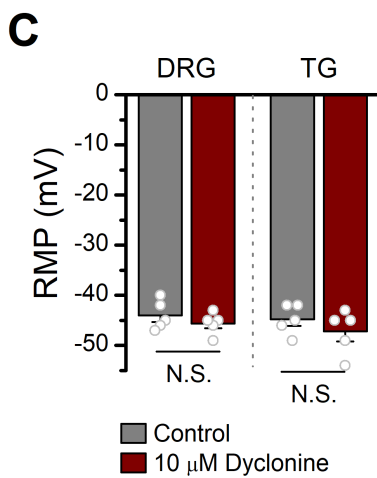
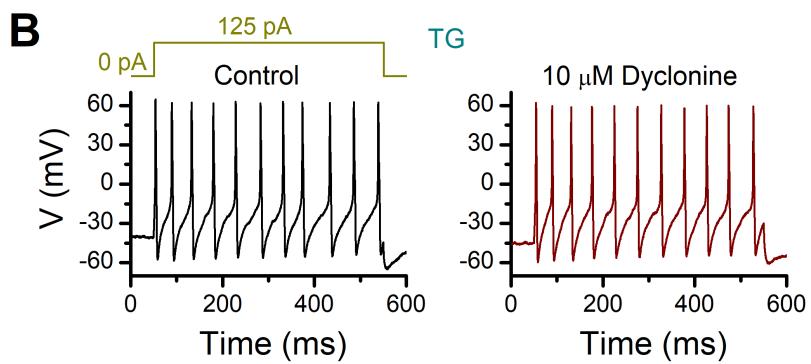
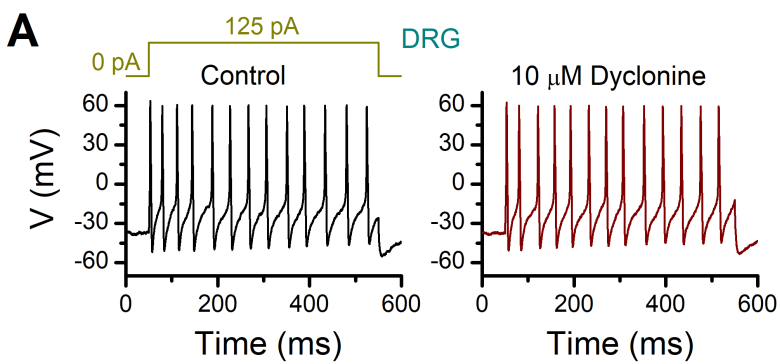




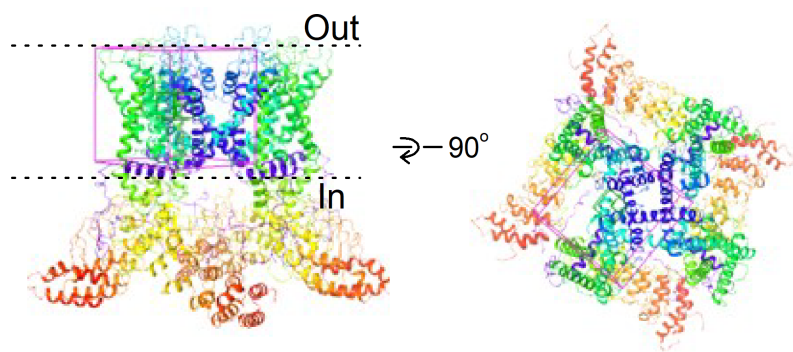
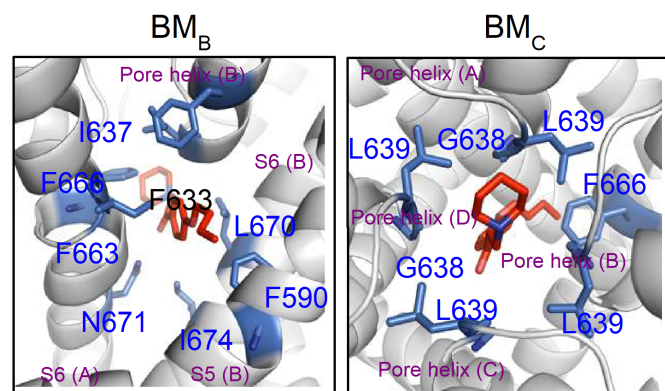
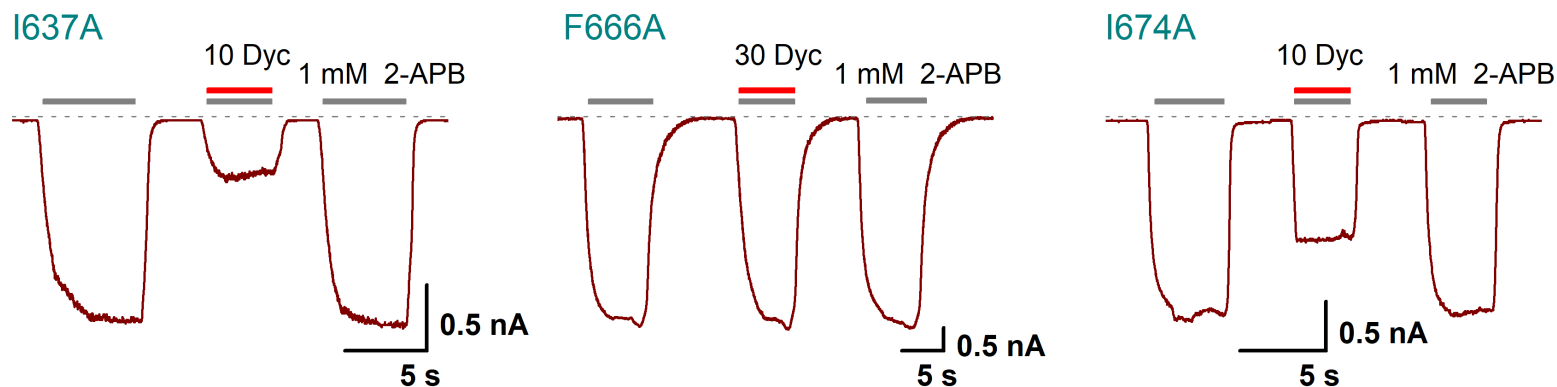
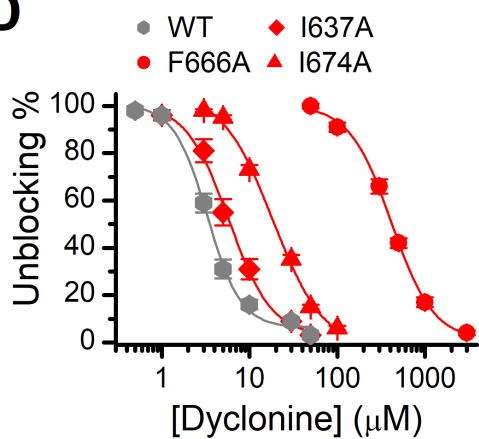
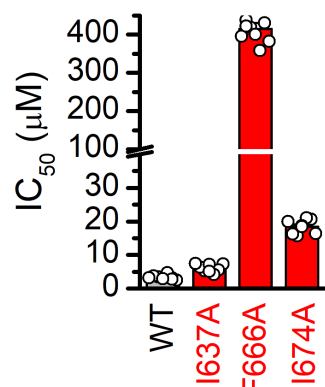
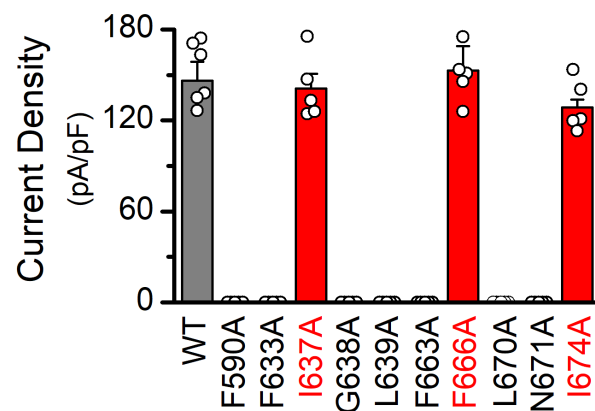
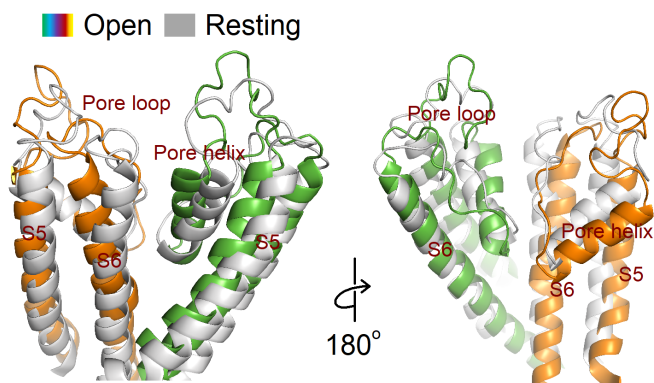
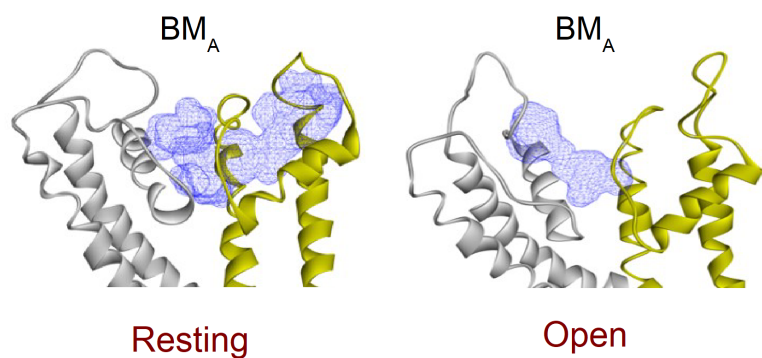




**A****B****C****D****E****F****G****H****I**





**A****B****C****D****E****F****G****H**

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mTRPV3	621	SYGSFSDAVLELEFKLTIGLGD	LN	IQ	QNSTYP	I	---	LE	LE	LLITYV	ILTFV	LLLNMLIALMGETV	681												
rTRPV1	626	SYNSLYSTCLELEFKFTIGMGD	LE	FT	ENYDF	KA	---	VE	II	LLLAYV	ILTY	ILLLNMLIALMGETV	686												
rTRPV2	589	PYRSILDASLELEFKFTIGMG	EL	AF	QEQL	RFRG	---	VV	LL	LLLAYV	LLTY	VLLLNMLIALMSETV	649												
rTRPM8	917	SDVDSTTYDFSHCTFSGNE	SK	PLC	VELDE	YN	LP	RF	PEW	IT	IP	LVCIYMLSTN	ILLVNLLVAMFGYTV	983											
mTRPA1	907	SLIQTFSMMLGDIN	Y	RDA	FL	EPL	R	NEL	AY	PV	---	LT	FGQLIAFT	MEFV	P	IV	LM	NLL	IG	L	AV	G	D	I	967